Daily Report

East Europe

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FBIS-EEU-93-237 *13 December 1993*

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Owen, Stoltenberg Postpone Salonika Peace Talks

LD0912170293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1635 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Dec (TANJUG)—The cochairmen of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, this afternoon informed all participants in the announced peace negotiations on Bosnia, scheduled to be held on 12 December in Salonika, that the conditions were not ripe for that round of talks, TANJUG has learned from circles close to the international conference on the former Yugoslavia.

At the same time, Owen and Stoltenberg expressed hope that the peace talks on Bosnia would be resumed in the week after 20 December.

The cochairmen did not specify where that round of talks would be held—in Salonika or Geneva—or the exact date of the meeting.

Talks To Resume in Geneva 21 Dec

AU1012142293 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Geneva, Dec 10 (AFP)—Parties to the Bosnian war will meet again here on December 21, John Mills, spokesman for the international conference on the former Yugoslavia announced Friday.

Bosnia's Moslem President Alija Izetbegovic, the leader of the breakaway Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic and the leader of the breakaway Bosnian Croats Mate Boban will attend, he said. Also joining the negotiations will be Presidents Serbia Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia.

Only Thursday Mills said that talks that Greece had proposed to host this weekend had been cancelled because the time was not ripe for their resumption.

EC Foreign Ministers Discuss Bosnia

Warring Parties Invited to Talks

AU1112143893 Paris AFP in English 0051 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, Dec 11 (AFP)—European Community foreign ministers agreed Friday [10 December] to invite the warring Bosnian parties to meet them in Brussels on December 22 in a new bid to resolve the 20-month-old conflict, German officials said. They said the invitation would be part of the final communique adopted by leaders of the E.C.'s 12 member states at the end of their two-day summit on Saturday.

Officials of the Geneva conference on the former Yugoslavia had announced earlier that the peace talks would resume on December 21 and last for at least two days. It was not clear how the Brussels meeting would fit in.

The German officials here said the E.C. foreign ministers wanted to meet with the Bosnian parties in the hope of developing new proposals regarding land and access to the sea for the Moslem-led government. The ministers also hoped to speak about solutions to the conflict between Croatia and Serb separatists in the Krajina region, the officials said.

They said the summit communique would also clearly signal the community's intention to maintain economic sanctions slapped on Serbia and Montenegro for their support of the Bosnian Serbs. The E.C. has proposed a gradual lifting of the embargo if the Serbs make additional territorial concessions sought by the Sarajevo government.

Bosnia's Moslem President Alija Izetbegovic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic and the Bosnian Croat chief Mate Boban were due to restart the Geneva talks that broke off last week.

Also due to join the negotiations were presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia.

The E.C. foreign ministers had a lengthy discussions on Bosnia here Friday, including the question of how to provide military guarantees for an eventual peace settlement, an E.C. official said. The official, requesting anonymity, said the ministers debated whether NATO or the 10-nation Western European Union (WEU) defense group should take charge of any such operation. "So far there has been no decision," he said.

NATO has been planning for a force of 50,000 men to police an accord once the parties agree on the ethnic division of the country. But the United States, which had been ready to send up to 25,000 troops, now looks unlikely to do so.

Serbs Warned of Continued Sanctions

AU1112174593 Paris AFP in English 1721 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, Dec 11 (AFP)—The European Community warned the Serbs on Saturday they faced continued sanctions unless they made peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, but backed off from threatening to strengthen punitive measures. A communique issued after the E.C.'s two-day summit also invited the warring Bosnian parties to Brussels on December 22 in a new bid to unblock talks on the 20-month-old conflict.

The E.C. leaders said "enormous obstacles" remained in the peace talks due to resume in Geneva December 21 and singled out the Serbs for refusing to make additional territorial concessions to the Moslem-led government.

It said the Moslems should have access to the Adriatic Sea after the ethnic division of Bosnia, and their claim to a third of the land—up from the 30 percent currently on

offer—was legitimate. Any division of Sarajevo must include U.N. guarantees of free movement of the city's people, the draft said.

The 12-member E.C. repeated its offer to progressively suspend sanctions imposed on the Serbs' sponsors in Serbia and Montenegro if they made a genuine effort at peace in Bosnia and the Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia. It said in the meantime that it would seek a more rigourous enforcement of the economic embargo decided by the United Nations. But a threat to strengthen the sanctions contained in the draft communique was dropped.

The statement, urging efforts to make peace before a winter disaster hits Bosnia, invited the parties to meet E.C. foreign ministers here on December 22 in an attempt to nail down a settlement.

Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, whose country currently holds the E.C. presidency, urged stepped-up contacts with all the parties, the United States and Russia to prepare for the Brussels talks. "We are ready to use all the means at our disposal to bring the Serbs to fulfill the conditions" for a settlement, Claes told a news conference here.

The summit said the E.C. was ready to help police an eventual settlement in the former Yugoslav republic under the auspices of the United Nations and using the resources of NATO and other groups.

An E.C. official said foreign ministers debated Friday whether the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation or the 10-nation Western European Union (WEU) defense group should take charge of any such operation.

NATO has been planning for a force of 50,000 men to implement any accord. But prospects have been clouded by the growing reluctance of the United States, which once pledged up to 25,000 troops.

The draft summit declaration said E.C. states would contribute to any implementation force and launched an appeal for other concerned states to do the same. The statement said that if progress had been made in freeing up the movement of humanitarian convoys in Bosnia, the parties had yet to fully carry out their pledges of last month to allow safe passage.

It called on them to adhere strictly to their obligations and also urged renewed efforts to reopen the airport in the northeastern city of Tuzla, which has been closed because of Serb shelling.

Bosnia's Moslem President Alija Izetbegovic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic and the Bosnian Croat chief Mate Boban were due to restart in 10 days the Geneva talks that broke off last week.

Also due to join the negotiations were presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia.

TANJUG Reports on Meeting

LD1012232493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2236 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Brussels, December 10 (TANJUG)—Foreign ministers of the European Union (E.U.) considered the Yugoslav crisis at a special two-day meeting Friday in Brussels and renewed the initiative from Luxembourg for its solution, although, it would appear, adopting a stricter approach. The E.U. spokesman set out a number of conditions that have to be met for the suspension of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) to come under consideration at all.

The E.U. action plan adopted at the ministerial meeting on November 22 envisages gradual suspension of the U.N. sanctions if the Bosnian Serbs give the Bosnian Muslims further territorial concessions and if a "modus vivendi" was established between the Republic of Serb Krajina (R.S.K.) and Croatia.

The spokesman said that apart from this, the suspension was now being made conditional on granting passage for the Muslim side to the sea, on a ceasefire and its respect as well as on placing Sarajevo under U.N. supervision over a two-year period.

Following the European Community in November 1991, the U.N. Security Council imposed comprehensive and binding sanctions against the F.R.Y. in late May 1992, and tightened them twice since, over Yugoslavia's alleged involvement in the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Co-chairman of the international conference on former Yugoslavia David Owen stayed briefly in Brussels Friday and submitted to the ministers a report on the situation concerning the peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The talks were renewed last week after Muslims refused in September to accept the joint peace package of also other co-chairman Thorvald Stoltenberg. Owen cancelled a news conference, perhaps because the E.U. ministers let it be known they were not satisfied with the progress of the peace talks.

Informed diplomatic sources even claim there were those who were more apt to tighten the sanctions against the F.R.Y. rather than to discuss their suspension. According to the same sources, the idea on a divided Sarajevo too was not received favorably by some delegations.

Also, according to the same sources, the representatives of the three warring sides in Bosnia could meet in Geneva next week in an effort to prepare continuation of the peace negotiations on the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina for December 20 or 21.

Owen Optimistic About Solution To Conflict

AU1112212693 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 9 Dec 93 p 9

[Interview with Lord David Owen, European Union peace envoy to the former Yugoslavia, "recorded by" Petr Pravda in Prague on 8 December: "There Is No Longer Any Justification for the War in Bosnia"]

[Text] The conflicts in the former Yugoslavia have become the greatest tragedy in modern Europe. MLADA FRONTA DNES, therefore, asked Lord David Owen, the European Union's peace envoy charged with seeking an end to the war in the Balkans, for an interview. Lord Owen was on a private visit to Prague.

[MLADA FRONTA DNES] Where did Europe make the major mistake in resolving the Balkan conflict? Has it not done too little to keep Bosnia-Herzegovina together and bring an end to the war?

[Owen] I became involved as a special peace envoy when Lord Carrington stepped down in September 1992. Most of the fundamental decisions—whether right or wrong—had been made before then. I have not looked back on this period or indulged in criticism of my predecessors, because that would be a waste of time.

I know that Vance, Stoltenberg, and myself have made mistakes, but I would not attribute much significance to this now.

It is a fact that Lord Carrington and Cyrus Vance advised the international community not to recognize Bosnia-Herzegovina. Before it did so, they predicted that, if it were to be recognized, there would be a civil war. So it has turned out.

My task now is to bring an end to this war. However, when I began my mission, 65 percent of the country was already under the Serbs' control.

I tried earnestly, and I am still trying, to achieve a peaceful settlement. I hope we will succeed in this before Christmas. I do not know, however, if this will happen.

[MLADA FRONTA DNES] Do you think the time has finally come for the war to be brought to an end?

[Owen] I am very sorry that the Vance-Owen plan could not be implemented a year ago. I think this offered the best solution.

Now, however, we are talking about a union of three republics, which—I am convinced—will lead to the establishment of an independent Bosnian Muslim state with the Bosnian Serbs affiliating themselves with Serbia and the Bosnian Croats with Croatia.

[MLADA FRONTA DNES] Is it not now up to the leader of the Bosnian Muslims, Alija Izetbegovic, to appeal for an end to the conflict?

[Owen] We are hoping for this. However, we have to try to find more territory for him. This is what we are striving most for at the moment.

We do not expect any breakthrough in the issue of the Muslims' possible access to the sea. This is now, first and foremost, a matter for secret bargaining.

Nevertheless, Croatian President Tudjman has spoken very openly about the possibility of guaranteeing the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims access to the sea in the Prevlaka region.

[MLADA FRONTA DNES] Is it a good idea to divide Sarajevo into Serbian and Muslim parts?

[Owen] The correct answer is—no. It would be ideal if we could keep Bosnia-Herzegovina together. The fact is, however, the Muslims and the Croatians are both claiming Mostar and the Serbs and the Muslims are claiming Sarajevo.

In my opinion, the key task now is not to divide Sarajevo down the middle. We should concentrate on some of the suburbs where the Serbs are in the majority.

This is an extremely complicated issue that can only be resolved by a joint effort on the part of the Muslims and Serbs.

[MLADA FRONTA DNES] Is it at all possible to halt the shelling of Sarajevo, which affects the civilian population in particular?

[Owen] I hope that these are the final assaults in the war and that we will succeed in resolving it and in reaching an agreement before Christmas or—at least—at the beginning of the new year.

In my opinion, there is no longer any justification for carrying on the war in Bosnia. It is always tragic when people lose their lives at the very end of a war.

The problem is, though, that all the sides have signed agreements on laying down their weapons, but no one has kept to them. They were merely scraps of paper to the generals.

The only solution that will bring success is to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement, which will deal with all the aspects of this issue. It should—first and foremost—incorporate the withdrawal of troops and joint negotiations on new borders.

The main problem at the moment is guaranteeing the peace. We have to end the war and gradually convince the population to begin living together normally again, even though they are now more divided than they were before the conflict. They have to begin trading with each other and they have to have the possibility to cross the borders of their republics.

Slovene President Visits, Meets Officials

Berisha Welcomes Kucan

AU1012171393 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1830 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] [Announcer] At the invitation of President Berisha, Slovene President Milan Kucan arrived in Tirana yesterday for an official and friendly visit. This morning, talks began between the two high-level delegations, and this will be followed in the afternoon by the signing of an agreement between both countries. Let's hear the report:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Zamira Koleci] The ceremonial reception held in front of the Presidential Palace this morning accompanied words of welcome from President of the Republic Sali Berisha to his Slovene counterpart Milan Kucan.

In the meeting, both presidents assessed the more than friendly relations between both countries and the desire to give a powerful impulse to them in the future. The tete-a-tete meeting between the highest-level officials of Albania and Slovenia, Berisha and Kucan, lasted for three-quarters of an hour and later both delegations sat down at the table for talks. After the end of talks, the presidents of the Republic of Albania and of Slovenia spoke to the reporters:

[Berisha] In the meeting with Mr. Kucan, we were pleased to discover that full understanding exists between Albania and Slovenia in all regional developments, a determination for a friendly development of relations and a determination to reach a very good political level of relations between both countries by cooperating in other fields, in the economic, educational, cultural, and all other fields of mutual interest.

Our opinions on the regional developments are identical. We consider the crisis in Bosnia as a crisis created by the Serbian national question and Belgrade's policy. On the other hand, our opinion is that the projection of this crisis in Europe has been very powerful and the international community is requested to maintain another attitude, a more strict one, so as to solve the crisis. The continuation of sanctions against Serbia and other measures to prevent the spread of conflict are indispensable links in the solution of this crisis.

[Kucan, in Slovene, fading into Albanian report] Mr. Kucan declares that the talks he had previously had with President Berisha and those of today have been characterized by correctness and full understanding. He continued saying that he believes that in the future they will solve their problems and those related to the crisis in the Balkans always by means of dialogue. Bilateral cooperation, the Slovene president continued, is taking a good course. Relations at governmental level in the fields of economy, agriculture, education, etc., should now respond to the level of political cooperation. He then expressed Slovenia's interest in the present and future of our ties and gave assurances that many possibilities exist. We should cooperate with each other and, together, with dignity and heads held up, be able to enter Europe.

In these talks, both sides considered as very difficult the solution of the Bosnia problem and simultaneously both sides agreed to contribute to the peaceful solution of the conflict, acknowledging the fact that every peace is more valuable than every war, which, besides destruction, produces deaths and victims.

The Slovene president said further that the solution of the Bosnian crisis will not bring about the solution of the crisis in the Balkans, if we consider Serbia's claim on territories even in those countries where no Serb has ever lived. No change of borders can be made without the agreement of the parties whose borders will be determined. [end recording]

At the Palace of Brigades, the Slovene head of state was received in separate meetings by Prime Minister Meksi and Assembly Chairman Arbnori. An agreement between both countries is expected to be signed in the afternoon and Berisha and Kucan will hold a joint news conference in the Palace of Congresses at 1900 tonight.

Bilateral, Regional Issues Viewed

AU1012171493 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1830 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] In their official talks Presidents Berisha and Kucan assessed the development of relations between Albania and Slovenia, expressed satisfaction with the high level of political understanding, and committed themselves to lifting cooperation in other fields to the same level.

President Berisha said that the political understanding between our two countries is a basis for the progress of relations in all fields, industry, agriculture, culture, tourism, etc. The acceleration of work to create the necessary legal cadre through agreements between the two governments will serve this aim, too.

He addressed the problem of Albanians who live and work in Slovenia in particular and the need to help them during this difficult phase. The majority of them are honorable citizens who have contributed by their work to the Slovene state. A minority are there to escape pursuit and persecution by Serbs in their country.

Discussing the situation in the region, President Berisha stressed that the cause of conflict in former Yugoslavia is the aggressive policy to create Greater Serbia. We favor respect for the CSCE principles and are against changing borders through violence, he declared once again.

At this meeting, President Kucan said that while the problem of Kosova was discussed in the former Yugoslav Federation, the Slovenes wanted the Kosovars to be treated as a people, and this was one of our disagreements with Belgrade. So long as Belgrade does not understand this, the danger of conflict is inevitable. We

understand the rights of Kosovars and will help in any way we can to avoid conflict, he said. He shared the Albanian president's view that finding a solution for the Bosnian conflict does not solve the Balkan problems. It is a misfortune that Europe still does not understand that it is the Greater Serbia policy that set fire to Bosnia and if the Helsinki and Paris Charter principles are not respected conflict will follow. He said that Slovenia thinks that a Bosnia accepted by three sides in Bosnia and supported by the international community is better than war.

President Kucan supported the further promotion of bilateral relations. He expressed the view that contacts between the two governments should increase, that the Albanian minister of industry and trade meet his Slovene counterpart, and that a Slovene embassy be opened in Tirana next year, etc.

The problem of Albanians in Slovenia exists, he said. I am sure that both our ministers of public order will find an appropriate solution.

The two presidents committed themselves to make further progress in all the topics discussed.

Meksi: Time To Increase Contacts

AU1012171593 Tirana ATA in English 0917 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 10 (ATA)—On December 9 before noon, at the Palace of Brigades in Tirana, Premier Aleksander Meksi met with the Slovenian President Milan Kucan.

During the meeting Mr. Meksi said that it is high time for Albania and Slovenia to increase contacts at all levels and extend relations to all fields. "We have common interest in economy, agriculture, construction, tourism and other fields, and we consider the institutionalization of all agreements possible," Mr. Meksi said. "The nearest functioning of the joint Albanian-Slovenian Commission is indispensable to realize concrete bilateral relations," he said.

President Kucan, describing the talks conducted in Albania as necessary and indispensable, said that economic relations between the two countries should reach the level of the political relations. "To this end, creation of favourable conditions is necessary to increase contacts between Albanian and Slovenian enterprises, firms, and businessmen," he said adding that the successful realization of privatization in both countries will influence in the further development of the bilateral economic relations.

Mr. Meksi and Mr. Kucan also exchanged views on problems of Albania's and Slovenia's integration into Europe as well as on the situation in the region.

Arbnori, Kucan on 'Joint Steps'

AU1012171693 Tirana ATA in English 0922 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 10 (ATA)—On December 9, before noon, the speaker of the Albanian parliament, Pjeter Arbnori, received the Slovenian President Milan Kucan at the Palace of Brigades in Tirana. Mr. Arbnori told the Slovenian president that the Albanian pluralistic parliament is realizing what Albania has lacked for decades on end. "Democracy and pluralism, which we have long since been dreaming of, became a reality in Albania. This is precisely the basis of changes we are realizing for the present and future." Mr. Arbnori considered the exchange of experience between Albania and Slovenia as very important.

"Slovenia has never been in hostility with the Albanians, on the contrary, there have been and still are Albanians, who live, work and study there, who cherish the best sentiments for the Slovenian people."

In their speech, the Albanian parliamentarians, Malasi, Spahia, Dokle and Laco, present at the meeting, expressed support for the democratic changes in Slovenia and the role of Mr. Kucan in defence of the rights and freedoms of the Albanians of Kosova.

President Kucan said that "We have many things in common. We faced the same situations, following the great changes that took place in Europe, therefore, we must make joint steps ahead towards Europe."

"There are people in the world who pretend that they, alone, have the monopoly of the right, but the right is not realized through manipulations. No people can say that they are free when they oppress the others," he said.

Speaking of the Albanians residing in the former Yugoslav Confederation, he said that the Kosovars were its first victims and expressed his support for their freedoms and rights in these territories.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

AU1012175193 Tirana ATA in English 1124 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 10 (ATA)—An agreement for cooperation in the fields of education, culture, and science was signed between the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Slovenia December 9 in Tirana. Present at the ceremony of signing the agreement were President Berisha and Slovenian President Kucan.

The agreement was signed by the Albanian minister of culture, youth and sports Dhimiter Anagnosti and by the Slovenian secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry, Peter Vencel.

Presidents Hold News Conference

AU1012175293 Tirana ATA in English 1137 GMT 10 Dec 93

["'Optimism for the Future of Relations Between Albania and Slovenia'—Press Conference of President Berisha and Kucan"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, December 10 (ATA)—The economic, educational, and cultural relations between Albania and Slovenia should reach the level of political relations, President Berisha and Slovenian President Kucan declared at the December 9 press conference at the Palace of Congresses in Tirana. In this regard President Berisha said that it is necessary to draft a proper legislation to abolish double taxes and provide other facilities to investors of Albania and Slovenia.

President Berisha said that Albanian and Slovenian officials share the same views in regard to the situation in the Balkans. We uphold that crisis in Bosnia is a result of the Serb aggression and the determination of Belgrade to establish big Serbia through ethnic cleansing. We also think that the resolution of the issues of Bosnia and the prevention of the conflict to the south is indispensable for the resolution of the Balkan crisis. Abolition of sanctions without resolving the issue of Kosova is an encouragement to Belgrade, President Berisha said.

President Berisha considered Macedonia's stability very significant to prevent the extension of the conflict to the south of the Balkans.

President Kucan said that Albania is the country with which Slovenia has developed the best political dialogue. "Time has come to raise the economic relations to the level of political relations," President Kucan said. The appointment of an Albanian-Slovenian joint commission next year and the meeting between the Albanian and Slovenian premiers will contribute to this.

In regard to the situation in the Balkans, Mr. Kucan said that Slovenia cannot accept Serbian policy which intends to change borders through violence and stressed that this policy of Serbs should not be legalized.

In response to a question regarding reforms in Albania, Mr. Kucan said that he was optimistic of the transformations in the eastern countries and voiced his conviction that none of these states would want to be socialist any longer.

Responding to a question about Slovenia's position in the event that the conflict extends to Kosova, President Kucan said that he did not believe that Serbia was so brave as to launch such an aggression which he considered an adventure.

In response to a question in regard to Butrus Butrus-Ghali's statements to carry out post-war Marshal Plan in former Yugoslavia, President Berisha said: "I consider his statement a noble intention and in my opinion the European Community, too, will support it.

"I think that Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and other outstanding personalities do not mean post-war dictatorial Serbia but a state which no one would have the right to punish it."

Responding to a question in regard to the use of force by the international community in order to resolve the Bosnian conflict, President Kucan said that "the resolution of issues can be attained only through talks between Tudjman, Izetbegovic, and Milosevic considering the UN principles."

The two presidents considered the process of integration in Europe as a vital process. "By integrating in the economic and political economic and military institutions of Europe, our two countries will be able to develop faster the values of their societies. At the same time they will give another dimension to these institutions," President Berisha said.

"There are different developments among states of eastern Europe and western Europe," Mr. Kucan said. But this will not be an obstacle for the integration in Europe of the eastern countries, a process which should be realised gradually. It will be in the interest of the whole Europe and not only of the Eastern Europe, because Western Europe is small to confront alone the competition from other countries of the world. Therefore, accepting this integration is in its interest.

Arbnori Protests Greece's Conference Choices

AU1112145893 Tirana ATA in English 1122 GMT 10 Dec 93

["'Selection of Persons for the Seminar in Thessaloniki Has Been Made on the Basis of Political Purposes'—Mr. Arbnori Asked Explanations From the Secretary of the Greek Embassy, Mr. Tolupas, Regarding the Representatives From Albania in This Seminar"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, December 10 (ATA)—Speaker of Albanian Parliament, Pjeter Arbnori, summoned in the seat of the People's Assembly the secretary of the Greek Embassy in Tirana, Mr. Tolupas, for explanations with regard to the participation of some persons from Albania in the seminar held by the Center of International Studies in Thessaloniki, in cooperation with the European Institute for Public Administration, the Press and Information Office of the People's Assembly reports. Mr. Arbnori said that other delegations in the seminar had deputies both from the party in power and the opposition and since the seminar treated questions related to European Community, representatives of foreign ministries, the ministries of economy and finance, banks and others had also taken part.

"I would like to stress, Mr. Arbnori said, that the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not been informed about the seminar. Attending the seminar from Albania were the deputies Bashkim Zeneli, Leontjev Cuci, and Anastas Angjeli of the Socialist Party; Deputy Paskal Milo of the Social Democratic Party; Deputy

Thoma Mico of the Party for the Defence of the Human Rights; and the Independent Deputy Gramoz Pashko. Representatives from the parliamentary group of the Democratic Party did not take part in the seminar, although this group makes up the majority in the parliament. Besides, there were no representatives either from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a time when the seminar was also attended by the unemployed Agim Nesho."

In his explanations, Mr. Tolupas admitted that some of the persons had been proposed by him himself, some from the Center of International Studies, adding that "our embassy has not considered any political criterion."

Further on, Mr. Arbnori said that several times Albania has declared its desire for cooperation and good relations with Greece. "In order that our two states have good relations, you should ask the friendship of three million Albanians and not of some thousands. Such deliberate political acts are not in the interest of friendship which we are continuously trying to strengthen to the benefit of our two neighbouring countries."

Mr. Tolupas apologised for his mistakes. At the end, Mr. Arbnori insisted that the choice of the persons from Albania who took part in the seminar has been made completely on the basis of political aims.

Czech Delegation Arrives for Visit

AU1212204393 Tirana ATA in English 0908 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 12 (ATA)—At the invitation of the Albanian minister of mining resources and energy, Abdyl Xhaja, a Czech delegation, led by Vladimir Dlouhy, minister of industry and trade of the Czech Republic, arrives on an official and friendly visit in Tirana today.

The delegation is made up of representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. There are also reporters and businessmen who accompany the delegation.

Mining, Energy Cooperation Talks Held With Croatia

AU1212212693 Tirana ATA in English 1108 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 12 (ATA)—In the talks and meetings during a visit to Croatia from December 6-10 of a delegation of the Ministry of Mining and Energy Resources, led by Minister Abdyl Xhaja, the two sides expressed their desire to cooperate especially in the fields of oil and gas, energy, glass industry, fruit processing, production of electric house appliances, a report of the press spokesman of this ministry says.

To this end will also serve the memorandum of understanding, signed between Albpetrol and the agency of hydrocarbon for the Albanian side and the INA Naftaplin company of Zagreb. On this basis, the Croatian company will participate in the land oil researches, restructuring of oil refinery in Ballsh, creation of a joint venture for services in the oil and gas sector and construction of their distribution network in Albania. The Croatian company showed interest in the cooperation in energy, in which the two sides will coordinate their work to realise joint projects.

Commentary on New PDP Leadership in Macedonia

AU1112171493 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Commentary by unidentified correspondent: "The Democratic Prosperity Party's Fourth Central Extraordinary Assembly Is an Historic Event for this Party and the Albanians in Macedonia"]

[Text] The latest developments in Macedonia, and particularly the fourth extraordinary session of the Central Assembly of the Party of Democratic Prosperity [PDP] held in Gostivar on 8 December shows that the Albanian [political] forces are and will be a powerful factor of stability in this republic and that, with their wisdom, determination, and high civil and national responsibility, they have removed from their leadership the chairmen of the so-called Paramilitary Organization of Albanians, Halili, Emini, Luma, and Mesini, who, on the one hand were involved in the arms cache together with the Yugoslav Army's intelligence service, and on the other hand were presented by their leaders with the diplomatic opinion that they were moderate Albanians. These discredited elements, who killed at night and mourned by day, together with several pro-Serbian Macedonian officials, bear a great legal responsibility for the imprisonment and deaths of innocent people in Macedonia. They have now launched attacks, accusing the new leadership of the Albanians in Macedonia as radical and alleging that they are aiming to destabilize Macedonia. This is an old slander that no one can believe.

Today Belgrade, its collaborators, and its quisling puppets are clamoring for the destabilization of Macedonia. The real democratic elements, who are renewing the PDP and whom the quislings want to present as radicals, are not radicals and do not want to destabilize Macedonia, but with their great credibility in the PDP membership and among the Albanians in Macedonia, with their constructive stance, they will work to consolidate the Macedonian state. This is in their interest and that of the Macedonian state, the Albanian nation, and Albania. Quislings and usurpers cannot solve the problems of Albanians in Macedonia.

Berisha Addresses Democratic Party Convention

AU1112190693 Tirana ATA in English 0914 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 11 (ATA)—The new National Council of the DP [Democratic Party], created in the second convention of the DP, held proceedings December 10, before noon, in Tirana.

The DP chairman, Eduard Selami, addressed the proceedings of the council. He congratulated the participants for their election as members of the National Council of the DP, especially the new members. Mr. Selami also congratulated President Berisha for the warm message he received from President Clinton who values President Berisha's contribution to democratic processes at home and his role of peace in the Balkans, and who ensures continuous support for democratic Albania. Taking the floor President Berisha said: "The increase of the DP ranks must continue. We are and will remain an open party. Opening and transparency are the attributes of this party." Further on, President Berisha stressed the importance of meetings between the government members and people. "Everything is well defined in the party program but we must explain the decisions taken, explain what is done and what is not done and what we are trying to do," he said.

The National DP Council considered as successful the proceedings of the second national convention of the DP and said that work began in the main directions of the election campaign in the DP should continue.

Later the DP Presidency was elected. It elected Mr. Tritan Shehu as secretary general of the DP and Tomor Dosti, Ali Spahia, and Engjell Hysenbegasi as deputy chairmen.

Visit by FRY's Kontic Reviewed

AU1012150593 Sofia VECHERNI NOVINI in Bulgarian 6-7 Dec 93 p 5

[Report on interview with FRY Prime Minister Radoje Kontic by Delislava Lilova; place and date not given: "Good News and Bad News"]

[Text] The visit by Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic to Sofia lasted only one day; it was unofficial and working in nature, had been postponed several times, and was preceded by enhanced interest shown by the Bulgarian media in our compatriots in the Western Outlands. The visitor only met with his Bulgarian counterpart and exchanged views on "matters of mutual interest."

The scandalous background to the visit and the indicative omissions in the program give rise to many questions, but do not lessen the importance of the meeting in Sofia. People undoubtedly expected that the meeting would increase the warmness of Bulgarian-Serbian relations, which have hovered around freezing point for a long time. The unhealthy climate on the border is harmful to our national interest. This lesson appears to have been learned, and this is the good news.

On the other hand, there is an evident unwillingness to guarantee the duration and extent of this thaw in relations, which presupposes significant changes and serious commitments in our foreign policy, for which no one wants to assume the responsibility. This leads one to the thought that we are not yet absolutely clear as to where exactly our national interest lies. This is the bad news.

Of course, we can hope that this issue will be made clear tomorrow, or on the following day at the latest. Kontic visited Sofia yesterday. Tomorrow or the next day, the Yugoslav crisis will come to an end, and the Balkans will wake up to find no embargo, with three new states, a Macedonian apple of discord, and several more powder kegs of problems.

How will these new realities impinge on Bulgarian-Serbian relations? At present the answer to this question sounds hesitant, both in Serbian and Bulgarian, but for quite different reasons. Even a brief conversation with the Serbian prime minister confirmed the impression that Belgrade has something to teach us regarding skillfully serving the national interest.

[Lilova] Mr. Prime Minister, the new relations between Athens and Belgrade are awaking old fears in Sofia. What is your view on the revival of axis politics in the Balkans?

[Kontic] I think that there is no reason to fear the good relations between Belgrade and Athens. Quite the reverse, the good development of bilateral relations is in the interest of all the Balkan states. In my talks with Mr. Berov, we paid great attention to general Balkan cooperation. It can certainly be said that this has come to a standstill recently. We must do everything possible to revive it on the basis of bilateral or trilateral relations, as a way to achieve overall stability in the Balkans. Axes are not in the interest of any of the Balkan countries.

[Lilova] Why then did Belgrade reject the Greek foreign minister's proposal of a meeting of all the Balkan countries?

[Kontic] No, this is not true. I state this loudly and clearly, because I myself took part in the talks with Karolos Papoulias. The question should be posed in a different way. During Mr. Papoulias's visit to Belgrade, a very serious attempt was made to globalize the settlement of the Yugo-crisis. The French-German initiative and the new London conference lie in the same context. What essentially is the point at issue? The globalization of the Yugo-crisis is dangerous for Yugoslavia, but not because we oppose the peace process. Quite the contrary, it determines our policy. The question at issue is the sequence of the steps to extinguish the individual hotbeds and reach a level of agreement that allows peace to be concluded, followed by abolition of the sanctions. Conversely, the globalization of the conflict implies postponing the removal of the sanctions and linking them with other problems. I explicitly stated to Mr. Berov that one cannot allow the embargo to be linked with Krajina in Croatia or with the Kosovo problem, as Germany insists. In brief, we support all the efforts connected with the peace process, but give priority to those that bring close the removal of the sanctions and are based on real prerequisites for reaching peace.

Zhelev, Greece's Papoulias Discuss Cooperation

AU1112171693 Sofia BTA in English 2125 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 9 (BTA)—The president of the Republic of Bulgaria Zhelyu Zhelev today received the minister of foreign affairs of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias, who attends the 3rd foreign ministers' meetings of the participating countries of Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

Dr. Zhelev thanked for the support of Greece for the approval of the interim trade agreement between Bulgaria and the European Union and for Bulgaria's integration with the European structures, the Bulgarian president's spokesman said. Dr. Zhelev suggested that the Greek Parliament be the first in the EC to ratify the agreement. The sides also considered the possibilities of opening a new border crossing between the two countries at Svilengrad and Andropolis, whose construction may be financed by the European Union, the spokesman added.

After the meeting Mr. Papoulias told the press that essential matters of bilateral cooperation and the situation in the Balkans and the European Union had been on the agenda. The chief Greek diplomat said that he is not yet familiar with the stand of his Turkish counterpart on the support which Turkey will provide for Bulgaria's integration into NATO's structures. In principle, Greece

agrees to the admission of new countries to NATO, but after the latest summit of the alliance it was decided to limit contacts with these countries to cooperation with them. Asked by BTA about the reason for this new meeting with Dr. Zhelev, after he was received by the president during a recent visit to Bulgaria, Mr. Papoulias said that before the Presidency of the European Union rotates to Greece, it is very important to hear Dr. Zhelev's stand on the Balkans and the Balkan situation. For his part, the presidential spokesman said that Mr. Papoulias probably requested the meeting to set forth the Greek position on the situation in the former Yugoslavia and the problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Turkey's Demirel: 'No Evil Designs on Bulgaria'

AU1112151493 Sofia BTA in English 1257 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 10 (BTA)—"Turkey does not at all meddle in Bulgaria's domestic policy," says Mr. Suleyman Demirel, president of the Republic of Turkey, in an interview for the KONTINENT daily and the "Observer" Programme of Bulgarian National Television. "Turks in Bulgaria are Bulgarian citizens and law-abiding citizens of their country. The Bulgarian Turks are nice people and live in peace with the Bulgarians," Mr. Demirel says. "We do not instigate them at all to one thing or another. Nor can we do so, because Turkey is a democracy, and many different voices are heard in democracies. A democracy cannot be an aggressor," the Turkish president emphasizes.

Turkey has no evil designs on Bulgaria, Mr. Demirel says, mentioning in his interview that he has told this repeatedly to former communist dictator Todor Zhivkov. The Bulgarian citizens of Turkish origin are a fine bridge between the two countries. "They give you no trouble... and if you do not do anything against them they will be grateful," Mr. Demirel observes. "We in Turkey will also be pleased that people of Turkish origin born in Bulgaria are happy where they are," he adds.

Conferring with Mr. Demirel, Mr. Zhivkov had claimed that he was trying to keep everything all right. "It was all right and all right and nothing but all right until 1989, when he drove so many people away. 350,000 people left for Turkey," says the Turkish president, referring to the aftermath of the forced change of ethnic Turks' names by the communist regime in the second half of the 1980's. "Our relations with Bulgaria are now very good, and they will stay that way," Mr. Demirel says. "Bulgaria and Turkey must continue to work together for the cause of peace, of Balkan peace," he says. "Free trade, free communications, free transport and cooperation in the Balkans—such cooperation will be of benefit to us all," the president of the Republic of Turkey adds.

"Turkey does not control the Balkans... we are part of the Balkans and what we want is peace in the Balkans," Mr. Demirel emphasizes, without denying that Turkey is the largest military power in the peninsula. "Turkey has a defensive doctrine, not an offensive one... we are a peace-loving country," the president notes.

"I am convinced that Turkey and Bulgaria, being two friendly neighbouring countries, will continue to cooperate for the benefit of the two peoples. We are filled with good will, and so is Bulgaria," the Turkish head of state observes in conclusion. He extends best wishes to Bulgarians and to President Zhelev, whom he wishes success in his work. "I hope to visit Bulgaria in the nearest future," Mr. Demirel tells his interviewer of the KONTINENT daily.

Council of Europe's Lalumiere Arrives

AU1312082293 Sofia BTA in English 1856 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 12 (BTA)—The secretary general of the Council of Europe [CE], Mrs. Catherine Lalumiere, arrived on a two-day friendly visit here today. This is her fourth trip to Bulgaria in the last four years.

In Sofia, Mrs. Lalumiere will attend an International Conference on the Problems of Equality Between the Sexes in the Transition Period of the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Mrs. Lalumiere has been invited to inaugurate personally the Information and Documentation Centre of the Council of Europe in Sofia. The centre is established on the initiative of the Center for the Study of Democracy.

"I am glad to meet again the highest-ranking Bulgarian leaders," Mrs. Lalumiere said on her arrival. "I will use my stay to discuss the situation in the country, the situation in the Balkans, as well as the elections in Russia which are of exceeding importance for us all," she noted.

Mrs. Lalumiere is scheduled to confer with President Zhelyu Zhelev, National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov and Prime Minister Lyuben Berov, after meeting Foreign Minister Stanislav Daskalov this evening.

Meets With Daskalov

AU1312082393 Sofia BTA in English 0742 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 13 (BTA)—Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Stanislav Daskalov met last night with Mrs. Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe, who arrived yesterday on a two-day friendly visit to Bulgaria. This is Mrs. Lalumiere's fourth visit to Bulgaria in four years.

The guest was familiarized with Bulgaria's political and economic situation and with its Yugoembargo-related difficulties. The sides stressed that the embargo consequences impacted negatively on the political climate in the country and on the pace of democratic reform.

The two also conversed about the initiatives Bulgaria is to promote in the wake of its becoming chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

These initiatives should help the west better understand the problems of Central and Eastern Europe, it was pointed out at the meeting.

Mrs. Lalumiere is to attend an international conference here and will inaugurate a Council of Europe Information and File Centre.

She will also meet President Zhelyu Zhelev, National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov and Prime Minister Lyuben Berov.

Skopje TV Says Macedonian Minorities Persecuted

AU1312091493 Sofia 168 CHASA in Bulgarian No. 49, 6 Dec 93 p 6

[Report by Antoaneta Maskruchka]

[Text] The private television channel "A-1," which broadcasts within a range of 30 km around Skopje, carried a one-hour-long program on "the problem with the Macedonian minorities," which was also received in Bulgaria. The team recorded a number of interviews with members of the "Ilinden" United Macedonian Organization and other phantom organizations—the "St. Iliya" Union of Christian Brothers, the "Ilinden" Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-TMO [expansion not known], and the Union of Macedonian Anarchists.

All the above persons from the Pirin region who were questioned on the program complained of "repressions against them on the part the the Bulgarian state." In their statements they called for the establishment of an autonomous Macedonian region within Bulgaria's borders.

A month ago, the newspaper NOVA MAKEDONIJA gave space in 16 consecutive issues to letters of complaint from Macedonian nationalists from the Pirin region.

Ancev Signs Agreement With Macedonia

AU1112175093 Sofia BTA in English 1623 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 10 (BTA)—Bulgarian Agriculture Minister Georgi Tanev and Macedonian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Eftim Ancev signed an agreement on cooperation in agriculture today before the end of the two-day visit of the Macedonian guest to Bulgaria.

The two ministers exchanged information on the condition of agriculture in their countries and identified opportunities for economic, business, scientific and technical cooperation in agriculture, Georgi Khinchev, spokesman of the Agriculture Ministry, told journalists. The sides agreed to set up a Bulgarian-Macedonian working group on cooperation in agriculture and signed a convention on plant protection and the veterinary sector.

Parliament Backs Settlement With London Club

AU1112173693 Sofia BTA in English 1418 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 10 (BTA)—At a closed two-hour session today, parliament agreed to authorize the cabinet to assume financial commitments to Bulgaria's foreign debt.

The parliament decision reads it agrees on the conclusion of an agreement with the London Club banks to settle the Bulgarian foreign trade bank commitments in compliance with the terms of the outline financing proposals. The decision says 5 percent of interest due on the debt for the second, third and fourth trimester of 1993 will be paid off. The National Bank of Bulgaria will have to present $300 million from its foreign exchange reserve for the payments by January 15, 1994. Bulgaria suspended debt payments with a moratorium in March, 1990.

It is good that such a decision was taken today, Bulgarian Socialist Party MP Aleksandur Tomov told questioners after the session.

The parliamentary group of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) insisted during today's debate on a restriction of the parliament decision within a consent to the payment of the sums due, SDS MP Ilko Eskenazi said. The conclusion of an agreement whose conditions are not known cannot be greenlighted, Mr. Eskenazi specified.

Zhelev Speaks on Combating Corruption

AU1112152293 Sofia BTA in English 1849 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 10 (BTA)—President Zhelev spoke for combating corruption in an extensive interview aired on National Radio's Khorizont Program this evening. "I think, at this stage serious measures should be taken to combat corruption. If we don't start this, Bulgaria will probably be ruled by a Mafia within the next couple of years. Mafiosi and Mafia groups will appoint and manage politicians and elections will be a formality," said Zhelev. He said it was crucial to cut the ties between politicians and business. "We are not against business and have said so many times. We respect those who have the brains and energy to make money but we object to politicians abusing their authority to get rich, to cash in on power. This is criminal, the beginning of corruption, the rudiments of a Mafia," said Zhelev.

Zhelev also thinks Bulgaria is going through a crisis of political confidence. "It springs from the discrepancy

between words and actions in implementing the reforms, a discrepancy between election promises and their fulfillment," he said.

The Bulgarian president thinks Bulgaria is moving towards early elections. "Judging by current public attitudes, there will be elections next year," said Zhelev, adding it was hard to say if they'll take place in spring or early summer. He also said he saw other opportunities emerging for Bulgaria and it depended on the political forces' reason and energy to seize them. Zhelev quoted the interim trade agreement with the EC, the agreement on settling Bulgaria's debt to private creditor banks and the opportunity to effect transit shipments via Yugoslav territory afforded by a UN Security Council resolution.

Dr. Zhelev declined to comment on possible changes in the cabinet of independent economist Lyuben Berov elected late last December. He said the only reasonable political idea in Bulgaria at present was a re-establishment in some form of the parliamentary alliance of the anti-communist Union of the Democratic Forces (SDS) and the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS). "It would mean that the people who won the latest elections would resume their positions. There is nothing immoral about it," President Zhelev said. According to him, it all depends on the wisdom of the political forces.

Dr. Zhelev answered in the negative to the question whether the land reform has failed but went on to say it did not make the expected progress.

Answering a question, the interviewee said he had always been in favor of a declassification of police files. "It is essential to have political cleanness and crucial that this would set politicians free," Dr. Zhelev said.

According to the Bulgarian president, the free entry in this country of so many immigrants is inadmissible and some restrictions should be placed. "We cannot afford to become a crossroads for organized crime, drug addition, and the Mafia," Dr. Zhelev said.

Miners Strike To Be Called Off 13 Dec

AU1112182093 Sofia BTA in English 2027 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 10 (BTA)—The miners' strike which started last week is expected to be called off on Monday [13 December]. The strikers demanded wages, unpaid for five months in some cases, and a long-term mining policy.

Industry Minister Rumen Bikov and the Strike Committee of the Miners' Branch of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (one of the two most influential trade unions in this country) today signed an agreement after talks which lasted several hours. A schedule for the payment of wages was approved. According to National Television, the Strike Committee said the strike would end on Monday but miners would remain on strike alert.

Speaking to BTA, Pencho Tokmakchiev, chairman of the Miners' Federation, said the agreement might be considered as preliminary because it would be initialed if approved by 51 per cent of the strikers. In the meantime strike action will be suspended.

In a statement on National Television late today Industry Minister Bikov said the government had not retreated from its mandate during the negotiations. He called on miners to end their strike.

Asked about his view on the miners' strike, President Zhelyu Zhelev said on National Radio tonight the miners were absolutely right. "The cabinet should long have mapped out a clear-cut plan on the future of the mining industry," President Zhelev said.

KNSB Confirms Strike To End

AU1112202193 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] At its meeting today, the National Strike Committee of the Miners Federation of the KNSB [Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria] decided to approve the agreement signed last night with the government and will order the cessation of effective strike actions on the next working day, Monday 13 December.

This was announced at a special news briefing at KNSB headquarters in Sofia. The miners will remain ready to strike until all the deadlines specified in the agreement have been met.

Tomorrow, KNSB teams will visit all the mines taking part in the strike: Madan, Rudozem, Zlatograd, Luki, the Sixth Mining Division in Kurdzhali, and Chiprovets. They will brief the local strike committees on the updating of Council of Ministers Decree No. 140 on restructuring the ore-mining sector, the details of the signed agreements, and the schedule for paying back wages at the various mines and divisions.

In Rudozem, at 1000 [0800 GMT] on Monday 13 December, a general rally will be held in which Deputy Prime Minister Evgeni Matinchev, and probably Industry Minister Rumen Bikov, will take part. In the view of KNSB President Krustyu Petkov, this will serve as clear evidence that the government guarantees that the agreement will be carried out.

Tripartite Council Postpones Uranium Decision

AU1112182193 Sofia BTA in English 2042 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Today"—BTA lead]

[Excerpt] [pasage omitted] The National Council for Tripartite Cooperation decided today to extend by a month the deadline for a decision on the future of Bulgaria's uranium mining. The Council today discussed a draft amendment to a Council of Ministers' decree of this year envisaging the closure of uranium mines by the year's end. The National Council will propose to the cabinet, respectively the Power Engineering Committee and the ministries of industry and the environment to consider the possibility to use uranium as a fuel in the Kozloduy Power Plant in deciding the future of uranium mining. [passage omitted]

New Policy Center Becomes Party

AU1212190893 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The second national conference of the Center for New Policy ended. The delegates established a new party—the Center for New Policy—and adopted its statute. The previous Center for New Policy Association, which has an ideological character, continues to exist. Dimitur Ludzhev was elected chairman of both formations. Lyudmil Georgiev was elected his deputy as party leader, while Professor Svetoslav Stavrev was elected deputy chairman of the association.

The Center for New Policy Party supports early elections according to a new Election Law and effecting amendments in the constitution, aimed at stabilizing the government and expanding the prerogatives of the president.

However, the government cannot count on the unconditional support on the part of the Center for New Policy, the concluding declaration adopted today by the delegates reads.

Dimitur Ludzhev promised the delegates solid election results. The Center for New Policy will strive toward developing cooperation with a broad range of democratic organizations and persons, among them the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union, the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, Assembly for Democracy, the Constitutional Forum, and the parties represented in the National Assembly faction of the New Alliance for Democracy.

The Center for New Policy intends to maintain good and active relations with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms and certain parties in the Union of Democratic Forces, such as the Radical Democratic Party, the Christian Democratic Center Association, and the Democratic Party, as well as with representatives of the leftist forces, first of all with the Alliance for Social Democracy and the Civil Alliance for the Republic.

Names of New DPS Leaders, Officials Published

AU1312113893 Sofia PRAVA I SVOBODI in Bulgarian No. 49, 3 Dec 93 p 8

["Memberships of Central Council and Central Executive Council of Rights and Freedoms Movement," approved at Third National Conference of Rights and Freedoms Movement in Sofia on 28 November 1993]

[Text]

Membership of the DPS [Rights and Freedoms Movement] Central Council

DPS chairman	Ahmed Dogan
Deputy chairmen	Osman Oktay—organizational matters and interparty relations;
	Yunal Lyutfi—foreign policy issues
	Sherife Mustafa—religious and intellectual issues
	Mustafa Zankov—economic issues and agrarian policy
	Myumyun Emin—social activities
	Ayrush Hadj—rights of man and human communities
	Kasim Dal—national security
	Gyuner Tahir—relations with the public and state institutions
Coordinators	Sabri Galib—for northeast Bulgaria
	Mustafa Karnobatlu—for northwest Bulgaria
	Muhammed Redjel—for southeast Bulgaria
	Ibrahim Kadri—for southwest Bulgaria
District Chairmen	Ayrush Hadj—Blagoevgrad
	Sabri Mehmedali—Burga
	Kadir Kadir—Varna
	Azis Muradov—Veliko Turnovo
	Vedat Adem—Dobrich
	Ahmed Husein—Kurdzhali
	Hasan Ali—Lovech
	Asim Adem—Pazardzhik
	Mustafa Karnobatlu—Pleven
	Fikret Sepetchi—Plovdiv
	Cetin Yumer—Razgrad
	Halid Gaazi—Ruse
	Kemal Adil—Silistra
	Mustafa Hadibov—Sliven
	Rufat Feleti—Smolyan
	Ayshe Hayrulla—Stara Zagora
	Emine Halil—Turgovishte
	Yudjel Atilla—Khaskovo
	Mehmed Beytulla—Shumen
	Arif Ayhan—Yambol
	Petur Yapov—Sofia
	Hasan Azis—chairman of student youth
Membership of Central Executive Bureau [Tsentralno operativno byuro]	Ahmed Dogan

Membership of the DPS [Rights and Freedoms Movement] Central Council (Continued)	
	Osman Oktay
	Yunal Lyutfi
	Sherife Mustafa
	Mustafa Zankov
	Myumyun Emin
	Ayrush Hadj
	Kasim Dal
	Gyuner Tahir
	Sabri Galib
	Mustafa Karnobatlu
	Muhammed Redjel
	Ibrahim Kadri

Skoda Suspected of Supplying Technology to Iran

AU1012151493 Prague CTK in English 2202 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Prague/Plzen Dec 9 (CTK)—According to an unnamed Israeli diplomat in Prague, there exists a suspicion that Czech firms are participating in supplying technology for Iran's nuclear programme. In an interview with CTK, the diplomat did not rule out the possibility that Israel's concerns could become one of the topics of Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec's upcoming visit to Israel, scheduled for December 12-14.

The diplomat also based his suspicion on an October 28 report in the French daily LE POINT, according to which the Czech firm Skoda Plzen allegedly signed an agreement with Iran to supply technology for nuclear reactors in exchange for deliveries of oil products.

Referring to Skoda's cooperation with Iran in nuclear engineering, the manager for technical service of nuclear power plants of the Skoda Jaderne Strojirenstvi Plzen company, Frantisek Svitak, said today that Iran was interested in constructing a nuclear power plant and that Skoda could supply it with reactor equipment through the mediation of a Russian general supplier.

In the interview with CTK, the Israeli diplomat pointed to similar deliveries to Iraq before the Persian Gulf War and stressed that Iran currently represented the biggest threat to Israel.

Skoda General Director Lubomir Soudek visited Iran at the end of November and the beginning of December where he negotiated the possibility of cooperation in energy, transport engineering and the sugar industry.

During his recent visit to Prague, Israeli Acting Defence Minister Mordechai Gur told CTK that supplies of armaments and military systems to the Teheran government by unnamed European countries have turned Iran into a threat to world peace. He said then that Israel would welcome the Czech Republic's participation in the Middle East peace process by exerting pressure on countries such as Iran and by controlling its exports to prevent these countries from pursuing aggressive and militant policies.

According to Israeli Analyst Dani Kesem, who was quoted by the Czech press this week, Skoda is becoming for the American company Westinghouse and for the German concern Siemens the gate to the Iranian nuclear market. This statement was immediately denied by Skoda Spokesman Jaroslav Hudec who said he considered it misleading.

Skoda effectively cooperates with Westinghouse in developing nuclear fuel for the VVER [water-moderated water-cooled power reactor] 1000 reactor destined for the Temelin nuclear power plant in Southern Bohemia, Svitak told CTK today.

He said that non-active model tests are currently being conducted at Skoda's testing facilities for Westinghouse which is supplying models of nuclear fuel, to check the suitability of its nuclear fuels for the VVER 1000 reactor.

Svitak said that Skoda had been promised it could provide similar tests at its testing facilities to check nuclear fuel for the VVER 440 reactors. With these reactors are equipped, for example, the nuclear power plants in Dukovany, Southern Moravia, and in Jaslovske Bohunice, Western Slovakia. It has not yet been decided which firm will supply this fuel. Westinghouse, Siemens, the French Framatome, and Swedish-Swiss ABB are participating in the selection process.

Klaus, Klestil Cited on Czech-Austria Issues

AU1012123993 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 8 Dec 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Klestil Met With Vaclav Klaus"]

[Text] Prague—In the view of Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus the property rights of the ethnic Germans, who were driven out of Czechoslovakia after 1945, have "long been settled."

The Prague government is of the opinion that the rights "of the people, who were expelled after 1945, have already been settled by a treaty with Austria," Klaus stated after a meeting with President Thomas Klestil.

Concerning the Temelin nuclear power plant, Klaus said: "It is in our very own interest to make efforts for as much safety as possible."

Asked whether the correspondence with Chancellor Franz Vranitzky about Temelin is being continued, Klaus said tersely: "It is not continued."

Klestil stated that the relations between the two countries are so friendly that one can openly point "to one problem or the other." Thus, he considers it his duty to repeatedly point out the Austrian people's fears of nuclear power.

Havel, Austria's Klestil Disagree on EU, Russia

AU1012124093 Salzburg SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN in German 9 Dec 93 p 2

["SN, APA"-attributed report: "Klestil and Havel Do Not Agree on Russia and European Union"]

[Text] Vienna—At a joint news conference [in Prague] on Tuesday, Czech President Vaclav Havel and President Thomas Klestil did not quite agree. Havel criticized the involvement of the European Community and the international community in the areas of war in ex-Yugoslavia as "insufficient." Klestil was far more restrained about the role of the European Union [EU]: He does not believe that one can hold the European

Union responsible. Rather, it is to be regretted "that the political goal of a common European security has not yet been implemented."

Russia's ambitions were also assessed differently by the presidents. Havel fears that Moscow once again wants to exert influence on its neighbors. It is a fact "that some voices sound disconcerting," Havel said, but he added the hope that these are only voices in the election campaign.

Klestil said that Vienna does not get the impression that Moscow wants to reestablish its sphere of influence in Central Europe.

Radio Free Europe To Broadcast From Prague

AU1012183193 Prague CTK in English 1651 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Prague Dec 10 (CTK)—Radio Free Europe (RFE) will start broadcasting from Prague in the second quarter of 1994, Pavel Pechacek, director of the Czech RFE broadcasting office based in Munich, said today.

The U.S. Government may decide that the RFE headquarters should move to Prague, but the moving would take eighteen months, Pechacek said, adding that two other options for a new venue for the RFE headquarters were Washington and Munich, the most expensive German city.

Broadcasting from Washington would be technically impossible, Pechacek said, adding that RFE budget will be cut by about two thirds to 75 million USD from October 1994.

He rejected reports by Czech tabloids that a Prague-based RFE would cost Czech taxpayers millions of crowns, adding, if we come here, it follows that we will bring millions of dollars. Prague RFE operations would present coverage in 21 different languages. We would be able to cut down on our spendings, which is expected of us by the U.S. Government, Congress and President Clinton.

On the other hand, the Czech Republic is aware that the presence of RFE and Radio Liberty in Prague would be an expression of trust that the USA puts in Czech developments, Pechacek said.

Dlouhy Attends Bonn Economic Conference

AU1312110493 Prague CTK in English 1832 GMT 11 Decv 93

[Text] Bonn, Dec 11 (CTK)—Low wages and production costs, a well-qualified work force and economic stability are the main benefits the Czech Republic offers foreign investors, Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy said at an international conference on the economy in Bonn on Friday [10 December].

The country does not offer such perks as tax breaks to attract foreign investment, he noted, adding that its main interest is in investors with long-term interests.

The minister identified Germany as the country's most important and liberal trade partner. He praised Germany's support for the Czech Republic during its transformation and integration into European economic structures, and commented that the country would be ready for admission into the European Union within two to three years. The question is whether its Western partners will be prepared, he said.

Germany is also the Czech Republic' most important investor—it has accounted for almost one third of all foreign capital coming in since reforms started in 1989, Dlouhy continued while, for example, the United States only for 27.1 per cent. German capital is coming through Volkswagen [VW] to the Skoda Car Makers A.S. In Mlada Boleslav and from other firms especially to the banking sector, chemical industry and construction industry, he added.

Dlouhy pointed to the possibility of mutually advantageous interconnection of the economies of the two states which could foster deeper cooperation.

Dlouhy noted the Czech Government's expectations that Volkswagen would fulfill its obligations and its basic promises given to Skoda in Mlada Boleslav. However, the Czech Government is by no means considering separating Skoda with VW, Dlouhy said before his talks with VW chairman which will be held next week in German Ingolstadt.

Dlouhy acquainted participants with the results of economic transformation in the Czech Republic thus far. We have the greater part of reform behind us, he said. Dlouhy pointed, however, to problems such as low labor efficiency, energy-demanding economy, old-fashioned technology and poorly developed management.

Zieleniec Criticizes Reporting of Sudeten Issue

AU1012162093 Prague CTK in English 2245 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Prague Dec 9 (CTK)—Some of the Czech media—unlike the German media—are giving the Sudeten German issue so much publicity that they are turning it into the key problem in Czech-German relations when it is not, Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec said in his written answer to an interpellation by opposition Deputy Jiri Drapela.

Zieleniec's statement, which was considered today by parliament, said that the Czech diplomatic service was noting that on a local level in Germany voices could be heard from time to time which disturbed the otherwise favourable development of relations between the Czech Republic and Germany. These voices made claims which belonged to the spirit of times long past, and often

even linked their demands to the issue of Czech membership in European structures, Zieleniec's statement said.

The Czech Foreign Ministry had made its position known many times in the past to the Sudeten Germans' Association, which is where the strongest voices came from. It is not therefore our ministry's intention to over-estimate the real importance of this association and some of its leaders by continual comment, Zieleniec said.

Any speeches by German state leaders expressing support for these demands were followed very closely by the Czech Foreign Ministry, Zieleniec wrote. If need be, we will react to them in a suitable way, as is shown by the letter from Premier Vaclav Klaus to Bavarian Premier Edmund Stoiber concerning Stoiber's speeches at the Sudeten German Days in Nuremberg this May, the statement says.

The expulsion of the Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia after the Second World War, as well as the expulsion of Germans from other countries, was not a merely bilateral affair, but concerned the decision of the victorious allies at Potsdam in August 1945. None of these powers indicated that it was considering the reevaluation of the Potsdam decision, Zieleniec said.

The German Federal Government knows well on what legal basis the post-war expulsion of Germans was carried out, and also knows well that the victorious allies never doubted their action, the statement says.

I do not therefore think that it is right to say that the Bonn government would thrust the revision of the Potsdam Treaty forward as a strategic aim. This is also the reason why, when the Sudeten German issue comes up in negotiations, German leaders never put questions which they know could run counter to international law, and negatively affect the interests of third states, which are their signatories, Zieleniec writes in the reply.

Havel Asks Saudis for De Jure Recognition

AU1112173293 Prague CTK in English 2140 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Riyadh Dec 9 (CTK)—Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Vondra today gave his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Abdar Rahman Mansur, a message from Czech President Vaclav Havel concerning the de jure recognition of the Czech Republic by Saudi Arabia, the Foreign Ministry Press Department reported today.

Vondra and Mansur then talked about the creation of diplomatic contacts between the two countries.

This June, a delegation from the Foreign Ministry visited Saudi Arabia and tried to gain support for the Czech bid to become a non- permanent member of the UN Security Council. The visit took place two years after the last official delegation led by former federal Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier.

Although the Czech Republic and Saudi Arabia have not yet concluded any significant agreements, they trade together. In 1992 the trade turnover between the former Czechoslovakia and Saudi Arabia reached almost 100 million crowns, with Czech exports dominating considerably.

KDU-CSL Regrets Loss of Coalition Cohesion

AU1012080793 Prague CTK in English 1229 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Prague Dec 9 (CTK)—The Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL) believes the government coalition, of which it is a member, has lost the degree of harmony and agreement it enjoyed when the coalition was formed, deputy chairman of the party, Jan Kasal, said today.

Kasal told reporters that in his view the coalition had lost its original dynamic in the adoption of policies and the mutual respect that formerly governed relations between the coalition members.

The government coalition comprises, in order of the number of seats, the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), the KDU-CSL, the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA) and the Christian Democratic Party (KDS). The KDU-CSL has 15 seats in the 200-seat parliament.

Kasal said that if the coalition members were not able to formulate a joint policy on the most important matters, the individual parties would have to make separate announcements to the public.

He said he hoped the coalition could demonstrate its cohesiveness at two forthcoming opportunities: The meeting of party deputy chairmen on the issue of property restitution and redress of cases of injustice regarding property scheduled for Friday [10 December]. The KDU-CSL expected cooperation with the new ODS representative on this matter, Deputy Chairman Jan Strasky, to be good, he said.

Benda Comments on Need To Maintain Coalition

AU1312100793 Prague CTK in English 1815 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Olomouc, North Moravia (CTK)—Keeping the governing coalition together at least until the next parliamentary elections is vitally important, chairman of the Christian Democratic Party (KDS) Vaclav Benda said in his speech at the party's conference today.

The coalition ensures the functioning of all the mechanisms of the state, but at the moment it has only a "fragile" majority, he said.

The Czech Republic's governing coalition is made up of the KDS, its June 1992 election partner the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA) and the Christian and Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL).

Benda said that the coalition had enabled the various tasks of the KDS election programme to be realized, tasks which would have otherwise been above the strength of the party. One of the issues which had been successfully solved was that of restitution in kind. "We were against financial restitution, because we know that this would have placed a considerable burden on the state budget", adding that restitution in kind had enabled six times as much property to be privatized as did the small privatization process.

The communists had lost their political power, but they still had economic power, Benda said. Natural restitution was therefore the only way of transferring property "out of the hands of the apparatchiks into others," and this was the only reason why the communists were slowing it down.

Benda did not talk concretely about Church restitution in his speech.

He said that creating the senate was important, and that the KDS would push for it to be set up.

On the question of local administration Benda said that despite the influence of "retarding, pressures from various groups, radical reform had to be carried out on the level of the state administration by the local elections." "It is clear that it will not be possible in the local elections to vote for representatives to the authorities of the larger local administrative units," he said, adding that whatever happened, the number of people presently in local authorities had to be reduced. The large number of community representatives is a hang-over from the former regime, when everybody had to have some sort of function. I believe that smaller communities should have only a mayor, and for larger ones it is enough to have a mayor and six to twelve counselors, Benda said.

He called the present situation in the media a huge failure on the part of the coalition. Conservative, right-wing newspapers were disappearing, and even the remaining two had considerable problems. Benda said it was clear "who has the political sympathy and how they grow stronger." He also expressed the fear that this orientation of the media would "avenge itself" on the coalition before the next parliamentary elections.

The KDS is becoming the only credible conservative party in the Czech Republic, Benda said.

Benda called the party's present conference a clash of personalities and of different currents, and said that Sunday's [12 December] election of party functionaries would therefore be important. He expressed the hope that after this election the minority would be loyal to the will of the majority decision, and that there would be no intrigues in the party three days after the conference, with its members wanting to change the leadership.

The Czech Republic was the only post-communist country which had a real chance of becoming one of the developed countries in the near future. We bear responsibility for the development of our domestic policies not only because of ourselves, but because of the whole of Europe, he said, adding that if it was not possible to demonstrate that totalitarianism can be overcome, a new iron curtain will be created. The KDS would support membership of NATO, whether Russia or London like it or not, he said.

Changes in KDS Leadership Proposed

AU1312110693 Prague CTK in English 2042 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Olomouc, North Bohemia, Dec 11 (CTK)—A proposal to change the Christian Democratic Party (KDS) leadership was made by former Federal Deputy Oldrich Musil from Brno at the KDS conference here today.

Musil stressed he felt high respect towards KDS current Chairman Vaclav Benda but did not think him capable of leading the party in its everyday battles.

Ivan Pilip, chairman of the KDS political council, said the party's policies on the local level should be above all assessed and that the KDS should pay more attention to its local organizations. Pilip said that a standard political party must have a firm electoral base. He voiced the view that the KDS should run independently in the next parliamentary elections. We have never appeared before our voters alone, Pilip said. He expressed the hope that a new leadership would define a clear path for the party's further development.

We did not fail in big politics but we did in local ones, Pavel Tollner said. We are short of not only money and people but first of all of good connection between Prague and local organizations. Tollner also spoke in favor of creating a platform for a broader unification of the Christian and conservative parties and appealed to all KDS members to think more about the future.

Benda was also criticized by other delegates to the conference who voiced their disagreement with the purchase of a new Citroen car for the KDS which was supported by Benda. The delegates stressed in the discussion that while the party was experiencing financial difficulties this purchase appeared to be very unreasonable.

KDS Elects New Chairman

LD1212140393 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1200 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The fourth regular congress of the Christian Democratic Party [KDS] elected Ivan Pilip as the party's chairman. He won 97 of the 182 valid votes, while 85 delegates voted for the present chairman, Vaclav Benda. The other two candidates to the post of party chairman—Miroslav Tyl and Vaclav Benda's son Marek—withdrew their nominations before the vote.

Trade Unions Association Holds Conference

AU1312112593 Prague CTK in English 2031 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Participants in the first conference of the trade union association of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia today decided to change the name of the organisation to the Trade Union Association of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia (OS CMS).

Jaroslav Strait, who was elected OS CMS chairman, told CTK that the association would seek to unite about two hundred of trade unions, associations and organisations which are currently active in the Czech Republic. They should create enough strength to pushing through unionists' interests in formulating a labour code and of defending the collective demands of employees of bankruptcy enteprises.

The OS CMS conference expressed disagreement with the proposed rising of pension border and demanded that 35 billion crowns (some $1 billion) be allocated from the National Property Fund (FNM) by January 1995 to cover the expected deficit of pension security after 2002, OS CMS executive secretary Zdenek Pernes told CTK after the conference.

He said the question of how many unions are represented in the OS CMS remained open at the conference as the 90 organisations which sent their delegates represent two-thirds of the total. The exact number of OS CMS members will be known at the beginning of next year, Pernes said.

Dyba: Inflation To Peak at 19 Percent in 1993

AU1112174293 Prague CTK in English 1857 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Brno, South Moravia Dec 10 (CTK)—The inflation rate in the Czech Republic is to reach some 19 percent this year, Czech Minister of Economy Karel Dyba said today at a meeting with students at Brno University.

Dyba said that a half of this inflation rate is to be attributed to the price increase in the beginning of 1993 due to the new tax system.

Besides this, the inflation rate was an average of one percent a month over the past three years.

Dyba also said that some 60 to 65 percent of the aggregate production output in the Czech Republic is being manufactured in privatised enterprises.

Referring to foreign investment, he said that these will be higher this year than in 1992, when direct foreign investments reached about one billion crowns (some 34 million USD).

Czech Radio, Defense Ministry Sign Accord

LD1312115693 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1000 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Excerpt] An agreement between Czech Radio and the Czech Republic Defense Ministry was signed this morning. It was signed by the Czech radio Director General Vlastimil Jezek and the Czech Republic Defense Minister Antonin Baudys. But what was the reason for signing the agreement? This agreement is important for many reasons. First, it guarantees allocation of set broadcasting times for army broadcasts. This is important at a time when army restructuring is under way, when an entirely new Czech army is being built, and when the public has the right to know what progress is being made in this respect.

Czech Radio has guaranteed that information provided by the Defense Ministry is broadcast on all Czech Radio channels as part of news and current affairs bulletins.

Yet another issue makes the agreement important. In crisis situations, such as natural calamities, ecological accidents, and so on, Czech Radio will ensure that an authorized member of the Defense Ministry staff has access to live broadcasting.

Thus, after a one-year break, broadcasting about army-related issues has been put on a contractual basis. [passage omitted]

Parties Plan 'Joint Action' Against Budget

AU1112173493 Prague CTK in English 0842 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava Dec 10 (CTK)—The leaders of Slovak opposition parties will meet on Monday [13 December] to discuss possible joint action against the government draft budget for 1994, which is to be discussed by parliament in the second half of December. Representatives from the Democratic Left Party (SDL), the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), the Alliance of Democrats of the Slovak Republic (ADSR) and the Hungarian coalition Egyutteles-Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement (MKDH), told journalists after their meeting last night that they would recommend their deputies to vote against the draft.

From the expert point of view, the budget is not viable and acceptable, Stefan Harna (Egyutteles) said. Opposition experts agree that the macroeconomic estimates—zero gross domestic product growth, 12 percent rate of inflation and 17 percent unemployment rate—are unrealistic, he pointed. This is government optimism, Harna added and referred to data from the Slovak Statistical Office which reveal decline in many branches of the economy. Rudolf Filkus from the ADSR said the opposition would request the government to clearly say on what it intended to spend the envisaged deficit of 14 billion Slovak crowns (about 424 million USD) and how it wanted to ensure the planned budgetary revenues. Harna said he believed that if the budget was approved by the government majority, it would in fact fall into pieces during the year and it would have to be continuously adjusted.

The government coalition, which comprises the Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS), has an aggregate 80 out of a total of 200 seats in parliament.

Jozef Kosnar (SDL) said he estimated that the deficit of 14 billion crowns would be attained soon after the first quarter of next year. Mikulas Dzurinda (KDH) said that by its failure to fulfill the parliamentary resolution calling on it to submit the draft budget in November, the government of Vladimir Meciar is breaching the law. It is Meciar's game to assert the budget under time pressure before Christmas, he pointed out. Kosnar said that if the budget were not approved, it would be no disaster. The rejection of a budget is usually connected with the government's resignation, he stressed. Dzurinda said he could imagine the present opposition forming a new government by early elections.

SDL To Reject Budget

AU1312112193 Prague CTK in English 2026 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 11 (CTK)—The Democratic Left Party (SDL) deputies' group will not support the bill on the 1994 state budget in parliament, SDL Chairman Peter Weiss told journalists today.

He said the main reason for this was the fact that the budget was not sufficiently backed up by a corresponding economic concept, adding that not-supporting the budget had nothing to do with the SDL being an opposition party. The budget is simply not good and we will not support it, Weiss said. Chairman of the SDL parliamentary group Milan Ftacnik said that a parliamentary vote on the budget would test the firmness of the coalition. If it is rejected, a new political situation will emerge in Slovakia, he said, adding that these questions and the possibilities for further cooperation will be discussed by the opposition parties on Monday [13 December].

Weiss gave information on the prepared meeting of representatives of Social Democratic Parties active in the Visegrad Group countries (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland). The meeting will take place in Bratislava on December 18-19, and the heads of the individual delegations will be received by Slovak President Michal Kovac. Weiss introduced the new party spokesman Milan Istvan, who will take office at the beginning of next year.

Meciar Expects Passage

AU1312111593 Prague CTK in English 2109 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 10 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar expects the 1994 budget bill to be passed by parliament, if only by a vote or two, he said today in an interview for Slovak Radio. The opposition was uniting against the government's budget bill, "but if they are against it, then what are they for?" Meciar asked. He added that it was the government's aim to reverse economic developments, and the opposition should allow it to achieve the impossible. The budget the government was proposing was a realistic one, he said, and this had been confirmed by independent economic experts.

Meciar also accused the opposition of having no programme, and of not knowing what the situation outside is like. He did not want to underestimate experts from other parties, but every economic process had, besides statistics, several dimensions which could not be expressed in figures. If they leave us to work in peace, not only will we achieve these results, but we will do even better. I say this with full responsibility, Meciar said.

The Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) meeting to take place on Saturday [11 December] in Trebisov, east Slovakia, will deal with the economic problems of companies and high unemployment, which in the Trebisov region is around 20 percent, Meciar said. He said that the HZDS had already started preparing for the local elections next autumn. The results in 1994 will show whether we have worked well, Meciar said.

Weiss Denies 'Secret' Talks With Meciar

AU1112173893 Prague CTK in English 1551 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava Dec 10 (CTK)—Democratic Left Party (SDL) Chairman Peter Weiss today denied allegations he had engaged in some secret horse trading with Slovak Premier and Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) Chairman Vladimir Meciar. Weiss confirmed, however, that they had discussed an agreement on holding early elections, but said no agreement had been reached.

The Kosice newspaper DOMINO EFEKT recently reported that the two party chairmen had met secretly several weeks ago and agreed that if the SDL would withdraw its support in parliament for a no confidence vote against Meciar, the HZDS would make sure that the lustration law was declared invalid, the law on the anti-communist resistance was not passed, and that it would not look into how legally the SDL had acquired some of its property.

Weiss said on Slovak Radio today that an attempt to topple the government now, right before the signing of the EC Association Agreement and the Council of Europe summit in Vienna, would be political amateurism. He added that this was not just a case of get-the-premier, but of the SDL playing the role of the moor to help get rid of this government and pave the way for a government of the SNS [Slovak National Party], KDH [Christian Democratic Movement] and the remains of the HZDS, one which would rule until 200 billion Slovak crowns worth of property had been privatised in the second wave of privatisation.

Weiss also said the SDL's opposition to the lustration law had been clear from the beginning, and that it considered the law on the anti-communist resistance, which sets the start date for applicability at October 6, 1944, still during the war, an absurdity. He had also called upon the finance ministers of various post-November Slovak Governments several times to hold talks in accordance with the law and take away that property which they should take away. The SDL is the legal successor to the Communist Party of Slovakia (KSS). Holding a no confidence vote, he said, depends on the moral and political positions of the HZDS and SNS.

SNS Comments on Meciar's Statements

AU1312112793 Prague CTK in English 2131 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 10 (CTK)—The Slovak National Party (SNS) leadership today adopted a statement demanding that Slovak Premier and Chairman of the Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) Vladimir Meciar publicly distance himself from recent statements about the SNS.

The statements allegedly were made by Meciar in his speech to HZDS local functionaries in Zlata Idka, east Slovakia, on November 27. The transcript of his speech was published by the dailies SLOVENSKY VYCHOD, SME and SLOVENSKY DENNIK. According to it Meciar said that the SNS faced serious internal problems and that since the time Ludovit Cernak took the post of SNS chairman some 10,000 people, both members and followers, have left its ranks declaring that they no longer wanted to have anything to do with the party... In some regions the party has only functionaries or chairmen of local organizations, nothing more, as the whole organization. They are also considerably disrupted inside. Those who stood for coalition relations with us are criticized and are threatened with expulsion from the party....

Cernak told Slovak television that Meciar's statements were other than democratic ways of understanding power, and that he considered them unfortunate. Cernak declined to comment on whether or not these statements might mean the end of the government coalition between the HZDS and SNS.

Daily Offers Meciar's Zlata Idka Speech to Radio

AU1312111993 Prague CTK in English 1802 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Kosice, east Slovakia, Dec 11 (CTK)—The editorial office of the daily SLOVENSKY VYCHOD which acquired and published a speech by Slovak Premier and Chairman of the Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) Vladimir Meciar in Zlata Idka, has called on Slovak Radio to provide time for broadcasting the speech. It was announced today that this offer is contained in an article entitled "Watergate the Slovak, or Legal Way", which will be published by SLOVENSKY VYCHOD on Monday [13 December]. The offer is on the table: Colleagues from Slovak Radio, you secure air time and SLOVENSKY VYCHOD will give the tape-recording of Meciar's speech for public inspection, the daily says.

Editor-in-chief Dusan Klinger told radio Free Europe (RFE) on Friday [10 December] that Meciar's speech had been published by the paper because it concerned not only the HZDS's internal matters but because it represented a "kind of practical directive on how to strengthen the power of the governing movement and this poses a threat for democracy in Slovakia." He said that beside some exceptions, defined in law, concerning state secrets, there exists no reason why the daily should not publish things which concern all citizens of the republic.

Klinger rejected a statement by the HZDS press department that materials concerning Meciar's address were purposefully chosen and tendentiously connected. I do not consider it to be at all non-ethical that we published this material and besides, the Premier himself is most aware of what he has said and how, he added. Klinger told RFE that beside the dailies SME, SLOVENSKY

DENNIK and the Banska Bystrica, west Slovakia, daily SMER, which also published Meciar's speech, his editorial office also gave this material to the dailies PRAVDA, PRACA and NARODNA OBRODA. The fact that these newspapers did not publish the speech testifies to both their political affiliation and to a lack of courage, and this, he said, gives a picture of the current state of journalism in Slovakia.

According to the transcript of his speech published in the press, Meciar talked at a meeting of HZDS local functionaries in Zlata Idka, among other things, about HZDS's tactics towards other political parties. The speech created a considerable stir among the opposition ranks and in the media.

Paper Compares Meciar 'Bugging' to Watergate

AU1112150693 Prague CTK in English 0850 GMT 8 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 8 (CTK)— The pro-government daily REPUBLIKA, published by the News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TA SR), compared the bugging and publication of Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar's speech in Zlata Idka to the Watergate scandal. The opposition daily SLOVENSKY VYCHOD acquired the controversial speech on a tape from unknown sources, its printing caused great excitement on the Slovak political scene, and the premier has refused to comment on the authenticity of the speech.

"When in the cradle of American democracy the wiretapping affair burst years ago, it resulted in the fall of the president. And American society, in other respects with a sense of humor, did not care at all whom Nixon and his team were bugging," the paper says, adding that "Idka has not laid golden eggs of sensation, but of crudeness tainted by a manuscript worse than those of the StB (communist secret police)."

"If someone is so perverted and spies on a foreign woman through the keyhole of her bathroom door, he keeps his mouth shut and feels ashamed of his disease, but does not initiate a national discussion.... No predecessor of the snoopers who recorded the Idka speech was ever lacking in good manners as to boast of the theft of sheep in the fold, or even slander the poor sheep they had their eyes on," the paper states. The information value of the Idka report is zero because someone who is able to resort to such meanness will not refrain from fabricating the "heard" information, the daily concludes.

Meciar Interviewed on Budget, Media Funds

LD1012221393 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1700 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Regular weekly interview" with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by correspondent Jozef Reznik; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reznik] Next week the National Council of the Slovak Republic will debate a bill on the state budget for 1994. Do you anticipate that the bill will be passed in the form the government is submitting it?

[Meciar] The National Council can reject the bill on the budget and has the right to effect changes in it. If deputies do however effect changes and in some cases increase funding then they have to say where such increased funding will come from. This is because such a balance of relations and economic thinking is dominant here. I anticipate that the budget will get through the National Council although by a narrow majority. One or two votes may decide whether the budget will be approved or not.

From the viewpoint of the philosophy of the budget we see that the opposition is becoming united against the bill. But when they say that they are against, what are they in favor of? The government has set before itself the high task of reversing the current trend of decline and achieve a zero growth. Opposition experts shout that this is not possible. When we say that unemployment will not exceed 17 percent and their experts claim that it will be substantially higher, then let them allow us to get on with the business of achieving that percentage. When they say that it is not possible to maintain inflation at the rate we have indicated we say that all this is possible. Moreover I do not underestimate experts from either side. Nonetheless, each economy and each management process, apart from statistics, has a number of dimension which cannot be expressed numerically. These dimensions are contained in the Slovak economy and the opposition's concept, which I regard as not being well thought out and which would only bring about a greater economic decline, for the lower the revenue the worse will be the expenditure side, and this will deepen the social crisis even more.

My answer to this is let us get on with our business in peace, let them stop questioning the government every week, let them stop calling for resignations and threatening in the parliament with a vote of no confidence. By the end of the year we will not only succeed in achieving these results but we will go into a surplus. I say this with full responsibility, conscious of these words. Therefore the variant the government is submitting in the field of revenues is a realistic one. The optimistic variant is to achieve at the end of the year an even more moderate deficit than is anticipated, and perhaps we will achieve a greater change in the plus items.

When the opposition continues to claim that they have programs and that they could do things better, then they have now shown that they think worse. They do not have any programs and do not know how to get themselves out of the situation. The macroeconomic conclusion of the budget is correct. The redistribution processes in individual items have two stages. The first stage is connected with the run-up to 1994 and the second stage is in the development of these activities which we are

preparing, and which should help the budget in 1994 to reverse the current trend. Redistrubution processes will then once come into play and the items which at present are seen as deficit items could end in equilibrium. Therefore, in spite of everything connected with this, according to the government's intentions the revenue side of the budget can be exceeded.

It is not a long time ago—I believe that it was yesterday or the day before yesterday, in the morning—that I met economic experts who are not members of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, and who are impartial in their assessments of projects. I asked them whether the variant of a zero growth was realistic and their answer was yes, the government's conclusion is a correct one. Their answer to my second question as to whether the development in 1994 and optimistic variant has a realistic foundation and whether it can be carried out under certain conditions was the same—yes.

Apparently the opposition must have different experts. If they are concerned about the fate of Slovakia let them let us carry out our better variant, which we will succeed in doing. We do not accept their variant. [passage omitted]

[Reznik] The press has published reports that Slovak Radio, Slovak Television and the Press Agency of the Slovak Republic will altogether be allocated 66.6 million Slovak koruny. A few days ago this figure was substantially different. For instance, Slovak Radio was proposed to receive a subsidy to the tune of 80 million from the budget. What has brought about such a fundamental change in such a short period of time?

[Meciar] [passage omitted] The government proposed an allocation of 80 million to the Radio, 30 million to the Television, and funds to support the Press Agency of the Slovak Republic were contained in a different item. Of course, this is not enough, but for the government it is important to know how these corporations are going to conduct themselves economically in 1994, whether we should meet the whole deficit or whether the state is going to be a contributor to these public corporations. As regards Television it is necessary to take into account that half the Second Channel should be in private hands. The state is not going to subsidize them. Furthermore, it is necessary to take into account that since 1990, since I have been aware of these problems, neither the Televison nor the Radio have tackled their internal economy. On the contrary, there is an ample reasons for criticism of these two institutions. It is necessary to create better working conditions, better salaries and technical conditions for people who work in television and the radio. But all this is very costly and no one wants to get involved. If there are people in the Slovak Radio and Slovak Television who want to get involved they will find in the government a friend and ally, as well as a helper, and the government will then again consider how to help them. This is a process which cannot however be delayed any further. I remember having talks about this matter at the beginning of 1990 and now we are at the end of 1993, and only very little has been done.

KDH Foresees Cooperation With Conservatives

AU1112162893 Bratislava SME in Slovak 4 Dec 93 p 3

[CTK report: "The Christian Democratic Movement Will Accept a Coalition With the Conservative Democratic Party and the Alliance of Democrats"]

[Text] Prievidza—A preelection pact between the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) and the Conservative Democratic Party (KDS) is possible. However, for this to be implemented, the KDS has to have 4-5 percent support in the opinion polls, said KDH Chairman Jan Carnogursky in Prievidza yesterday in an interview granted to CTK.

"Otherwise, such an alliance does not make sense," he said. In his opinion, early parliamentary elections could be held next spring. He disagrees with the forecasts made by observers who predict that these elections will be held alongside the local elections in autumn 1994. "It is not good to combine parliamentary elections with local elections," said Carnogursky. In the moral sphere, he considers liberalism "to be harmful, not only in Slovakia, but also elsewhere." In politics, however, he admits to the possibility of cooperation based on pragmatic solutions. The KDH chairman can visualize not only a government coalition, but also an electoral bloc with the Alliance of Democrats of Slovakia, which acknowledges liberal ideas. "In this sense, prior to the elections, we are already saying that we would like to form a coalition after the elections," said Carnogursky. Nevertheless, he added that it would be unlikely to involve a joint list of candidates.

KDH Candidates Top HZDS in Local Votes

AU1112174893 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 8 Dec 93 p 3

[TA SR report: "Correctness of Elections Confirmed"]

[Text] Bratislava—The Slovak Electoral Commission for Elections to Community Self-Administration Bodies discussed a report on the course and results of new elections that were held in 52 communities of 27 districts of the Slovak Republic on 4 December 1993 and confirmed their correctness by its signature. A total of 39.25 percent of eligible voters participated in the elections and elected 41 mayors and 48 deputies to 14 community councils.

The largest number of mayoral seats—10, that is, 24.39 percent—were won by candidates running for the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH]; nine mayoral seats (21.95 percent) were won by the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS]; five (12.2 percent) by the Party of the Democratic Left [SDL]; three (7.32 percent) by candidates without party affiliation; two each (4.88 percent) by the Slovak National Party [SNS] and the

Farmers' Movement; one each (2.44 percent) by Coexistence and the Christian Social Union; and eight (19.51 percent) by independent candidates.

KDH candidates for deputies to local councils won 19 mandates (39.58 percent), HZDS 12 mandates (25 percent), SDL five mandates (10.42 percent), Coexistence and Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement [MKDH] candidates won four mandates each (8.33 percent); candidates for the Democratic Party and the Romany Civic Initiative each won one mandate (2.08 percent), and two mandates (4.17 percent) were won by independent candidates.

Daily Says Media 'Undermining' National Identity

AU1112150493 Prague CTK in English 0907 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 9 (CTK)— The pro-government daily REPUBLIKA, published by the News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TA SR), points to the process of "undermining of the national identity."

The process has been under way since the June 1992 elections when the Slovak people set out on the path of sovereignty, and especially since the birth of the independent Slovakia, the paper says.

"The forces which suffered defeat in the elections occupied and still occupy crucial positions in the media and in the intellectual infrastructure. Since the very first moment, after having unwillingly admitted their defeat, they focused on discrediting everything which is Slovak," the pro-Meciar daily says.

"For some of them, the Slovak nation was too small and they were used in allying themselves to stronger ones against it, others dressed themselves in cosmopolitan clothes, still others mourned for lost power. They were creating groupings whose common denominator was and is the effort to abolish the results of the elections, and to convert defeat into victory. It was and is a frontal attack. Czechoslovakism is increasingly connected with an underestimation of Hungarian irridentism," the paper states.

The daily also warns that "the concerted attack by Radio Free Europe and cohorts of dailies, is bearing fruit, especially in the situation when Slovak Radio and Television are energetically trying to make the citizens disgusted with their lives by depicting the blackest possible prospects."

REPUBLIKA stresses that none of those who would like to drown the Slovak state in a spoonful of water never write that in spite of unavoidable and temporary economic troubles, and in spite of a long list of all the tricks and betrayals (conversion of the arms industry, the so-called division of the Czechoslovak Airlines, Cedok company, the merchant navy, and long-term enrichment of the Czech budget by means of the gas pipeline), Slovakia is economically much stabler than all the post-communist countries, except for that country which had for many years economically impoverished Slovakia and profited from the work of Slovak hands.

Moravcik Views Prospects for NATO Integration

LD1312103093 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 0600 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Slovak Foreign Minister Jozef Moravcik begins a one-day official working visit to Germany today. Our correspondent Branislav Zvara, who recorded the following interview for Radiozurnal, met him in Bonn.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Zvara] Minister, how will you respond to developments in Brussels? How will you respond to Boris Yeltsin's proposal to admit to Russia, say, and to Moscow's resistance to the fact that the NATO is opening itself up in particular to the reform countries of the Visegrad Four?

[Moravcik] As for the first question, well this is above all a matter for the NATO countries. Naturally, it would alter the entire structure and composition of European security.

But we are more interested—and we would like to discuss it—in the objections voiced by Russia with regard to enlarging NATO by adding Central and East European countries. We would like to emphasize that our integration into European economic structures, which has been agreed in effect, is very closely related to the security issue and, above all, to the political aspect of security. Adequate political conditions will have to be created in our country. Emphasis will have to be placed on these conditions and on rendering the relevant support for them. This support will have to be, or should be, given prominence because we can identify it with the ways in which we should resolve our integration into NATO or possibly West European Union systems. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Health Ministry Workers Appeal 'Purges'

AU1312113693

[Editorial Report] Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak on 8 December on page 3 carries a 1,300-word interview with Maria Kanska, a lawyer from Bratislava, by Juraj Hrabko entitled "Unlawful Purges." In the interview, the place and date of which are not given, Kanska discusses her experience of defending civil servants who "fell victim to the mass cadre purges in the state administration immediately after the 1992 elections."

According to Kanska, on the basis of an appeal published in SLOVENSKY DENNIK, "several dozen employees of the Slovak Government Office, ministries, the state administration at district level, and, subsequently, also victims of [former Health Minister] Sobona's purges in health care" had turned to her with a request for legal

assistance. Asked about the reasons for their dismissal, the lawyer says: "They were clearly fabricated. Not in a single instance did they include shortcomings in work. What I found particularly amazing was the electoral winners' arrogance. The dismissed employees did not commit any wrong, they did not do anything unlawful. Their only fault was that they did not belong to the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS]." Kanska deplores that most of the dismissed people who contacted her decided not to seek legal redress, which she attributes to the "truly lamentable level of legal awareness in this country" as well as to the fact that many of them were intelligent and capable people who did not have any problems finding a job outside the state administration.

Kanska is convinced that the victims of cadre purges had "a realistic chance of success in a legal dispute." She gives the following example: "One of the first victims was Engineer Roman Zitny, director of the privatization minister's secretariat until the elections. A few days after the new minister took office, Engineer Zitny's contract of employment was canceled. The official reason was alleged gross breach of labor discipline. Engineer Zitny was supposed to have violated labor discipline by giving an interview to the daily TELEGRAF, which supposedly constituted a breach of the vow of silence. It goes without saying that nothing that was subject to the vow of silence appeared in that interview. The true reason, of which the new minister made no secret, was the fact that Roman Zitny is the brother of Milan Zitny, the journalist. Engineer Roman Zitny filed a lawsuit, demanding that the cancellation of the contract of employment be declared invalid. A few weeks ago, the court decided with final validity in his favor. This means that Engineer Zitny continues to be an employee of the Ministry for the Administration and Privatization of National Property. His chief is Vladimir Meciar, the acting minister."

Kanska views the verdict in the Zitny case, along with the successfully concluded case of Trnava University and the court verdict in the Slobodnik-Feldek trial, as an "encouraging signal" that Slovakia is taking "the first small steps" on the road toward a law-governed state. She says that it is very important for people to claim their rights by legal means: "No one should surrender in advance and say that nothing can be done. The high-principled stand by the management of Trnava University demonstrated that this is not the case. It did not give up and the arrogance of power had to bow to law."

CTK Reports HZDS Meeting, Moravcik Statement

AU1312111793 Prague CTK in English 2112 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Trebisov, east Slovakia, Dec 11 (CTK)—The National Board of the Movement For a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) today urged HZDS members of the cabinet and parliamentary deputies to push for a government budget bill for next year and a law on horizontal integration of the state administration be passed by parliament, HZDS leaders told journalists.

At a press conference following a national board meeting here HZDS Deputy Chairpersons Sergei Kozlik and Olga Keltosova said that in a resolution adopted at the meeting the board voiced its disagreement with the "political persecution" of HZDS member Ivan Lexa for expressing his views in the media in connection with the proposal to appoint him privatization minister, and expressed Lexa its full support.

On December 7, the Bratislava municipal investigator brought a charge of defamation of the republic and its representatives against Lexa, state secretary to the ministry of privatization, for his statements in which he questioned the capabilities and the morality of Slovak President Michal Kovac after Kovac Refused to appoint him privatization minister.

Asked by CTK how many members of the board voted for the resolution, the HZDS deputy chairs said it was approved unanimously by all its members who were present at the meeting at the moment. According to information obtained by CTK 12 people of the 57 participants to the meeting were not present during the vote and Slovak Foreign Minister Jozef Moravcik and Deputy Chairman of the HZDS deputies' group Vladimir Bajan were among them. It is said that Moravcik's interview for the Friday [10 December] issue of the daily NARODNA OBRODA was also discussed by the HZDS board. Commenting on Meciar's speech in Zlata Idka, Moravcik said in the interview that it ran contrary to the principles, efforts and the programme of the HZDS. He said that the HZDS had to preserve the ability to conduct a civilized political dialogue. Politics cannot be based on obedience as this leads to dictatorship, Moravcik said. It is rumored that Moravcik's post of foreign minister is probably threatened after today's HZDS board meeting.

Meciar Announces 10-Percent Import Surcharge

LD1012223193 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 2030 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] The Slovak Government is preparing a 10-percent import surcharge on foreign goods providing domestic manufacturers do not increase their prices. This is what Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar said at a public meeting in Trebisov today in connection with the recent uncontrolled growth of prices. At the same time he refuted rumors about a 20 percent devaluation of the Slovak currency by the end of the year, which is allegedly being prepared. Vladimir Meciar then went on to say that the state compensation benefit will be preserved within the social welfare system, but that its payments will be differentiated according to (?income).

October Cost of Living, Price Increases

AU1112145093 Bratislava HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Slovak 7 Dec 93 p 7

[Report by Ivan Skultety, director of the Statistical Office Department of Prices, Trade, and Services: "Development in Consumer Prices and the Cost of Living in the Slovak Republic in October"]

[Text] Consumer prices in October—compared with September—increased by an aggregate of 1.4 percent. The prices of foodstuffs increased by 2.0 percent; non-foodstuffs by 1.4 percent; public catering by 1.4 percent; and services by 0.5 percent.

The prices of foodstuffs—compared with September—increased as a consequence of the 5.7-percent increase in the price of meat and meat products; the 6.7-percent increase in the price of eggs and egg products; and the 2.0-percent increase in the price of sugar, confectionery, and confectionery products. The price rises in the other categories of foodstuffs were between 0.5 percent and 1.9 percent.

Prices increased in all the categories of non-foodstuffs monitored; these increases were between 0.2 percent (construction products) and 2.9 percent (fuels). The 2.7-percent rise in the cost of canteen catering and the 1.3-percent rise in the cost of restaurant catering contributed toward the rise in the cost of public catering. The higher prices in the majority of categories monitored—from 0.2 percent (for transportation and communications) to 1.4 percent (for education, culture, entertainment, and sport)—were projected into the higher cost of services.

During the first 10 months of this year, consumer prices increased by an average (compared with December 1992) of 15.1 percent. The highest increase was in public catering, by 26.2 percent. During the same period, the cost of services increased by 18.5 percent; non-foodstuff prices increased by 13.8 percent; and foodstuff prices increased by 11.3 percent. From the long-term point of view, prices in October 1993—compared with January 1989—were an aggregate of 154.6 percent higher and, during the first 10 months of the year, were 138.3 percent higher. The development in prices has also been projected into the rise in the cost of living, which in October—compared with September—increased by 1.6 percent for all social groups.

The increased cost of foodstuffs, in particular, played a role in the rise in the cost of living for employees, farmers, and pensioners. The cost of living for pensioners increased by 2.5 percent in October, compared with September, while the increases for employees and farmers were 2.4 percent and 2.3 percent respectively.

Prime Minister Antall Dies 12 Dec

MTI Carries Obituary

AU1212170893 Budapest MTI in English 1659 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, December 12 (MTI)—Jozsef Antall, prime minister and president of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, died on December 12 at 5.15 p.m. [1615 GMT] in Sote Medical University Hospital, at the age of 62, after a prolonged, serious illness.

Jozsef Antall was born in Budapest on April 8, 1932. is secondary school was Budapest's Piarist Grammar School, and he went on to Eotvos Lorand University Faculty of Arts and to the Faculty of Law. He had a degree in history, archive, library, and museum studies, and a doctorate degree in history. He also pursued ethnographical, art history, anthropological, and islamic culture history as well as economic studies. After filling various posts as a teacher and librarian, he was senior staff member, deputy director, and senior director of Semmelweis Museum Library and Archive of Medical History from 1964 to 1990.

In the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, he was elected chairman of a revolutionary committee, and was involved in re-organizing the Independent Smallholders' Party, in shaping the Christian Youth Alliance, and was in close contact with the Petofi (Peasant) Party. During that time, he was in touch with several ministers of the Imre Nagy government, and was involved in personnel and political work. Between November 4, 1956 and early January, 1957, Antall took part in political talks and in drawing up domestic policy and foreign policy-related drafts and memorandums.

For his political activities, he was questioned and held in custody by both Soviet and Hungarian police authorities. He was subsequently suspended from his post, banned from teaching and from publishing any books. He was kept under police surveillance later on, particularly during the Czechoslovak events of 1968 and the Polish events of 1981. He first received a passport in 1974.

From 1963 on, he again could publish articles and books. He published around 350 books, essays and articles on politics, public education, and medical history. He was a member of several international institutions and won Hungarian, foreign, and international prizes and awards, scholarly and other honours. He was general secretary of two international academic congresses in 1974 and 1981, and gave lectures at several international congresses and foreign universities.

He was a founding member of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF), whose overall policy he largely designed. In 1989, he assumed a significant role in the work of the opposition round table and the trilateral conciliatory conferences. Since October 21, 1989, he had been president of the Hungarian Democratic Forum.

At general elections in 1990, he received his mandate to parliament at the head of the Budapest list of his party. Since May 23, 1990, he had been prime minister of Hungary. Jozsef Antall was married and fathered two sons.

Government Holds Special Session

AU1212182693 Budapest MTI in English 1755 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, December 12 (MTI)—Hungary's government will meet in a special session on Sunday evening. The cabinet was convened by Interior Minister Peter Boross, MTI learned from government spokeswoman Judit Juhasz, who will brief reporters on the government meeting later this evening.

Goncz: Boross To Head Government

AU1212211093 Budapest MTI in English 2101 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, December 12 (MTI)—President Arpad Goncz on Sunday evening briefed the parliamentary leaders of political parties that at the special cabinet session he commissioned Peter Boross, under section 33/A of the Constitution, to head the government as acting prime minister until further notice. Presidential spokesman Andras Farago informed reporters of the measure during the session.

Goncz announced at the cabinet meeting that the government's commission terminated with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's death, and the work of the government, remaining in office until the formation of a new cabinet, will be directed by Peter Boross as acting prime minister under section 39/B of the Constitution.

Parliamentary leaders briefed by Goncz included Imre Konya of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, Gabor Kuncze of the Alliance of Free Democrats, Zoltan Gal of the Hungarian Socialist Party, Laszlo Kover of the Federation of Young Democrats, Bela Csepe of the Christian Democratic People's Party and Sandor Bejczy of the Smallholder G36.

Farago said that the president would begin political talks with political party leaders on Monday.

Boross Laments Death

LD1212180093 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1718 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Interior Minister Peter Boross will now make a statement. We now connect his voice.

[Boross] Prime Minister Jozsef Antall fought a heroic struggle with his illness. He drew strength from his commitment to the country and until very recently he was able to carry out his tasks as head of government. However, even his well-known strong will was unable to overcome the new illness which suddenly attacked him. His death is a great loss for all of us.

The memories of him as a statesman and as the chairman of the first democratically elected government—after a long

time—will be preserved by history. [passage omitted] During his work as head of government Hungary was reborn; a Hungary which, in the region, is justifiably called an island of stability. Hungary's prestige is closely linked to the personal authority which he gained as prime minister in international political life.

We inherited from Jozsef Antall an obligation; that we should guard constitutional order and calm. The government will fulfill this task.

[Announcer] Interior Minister Peter Boross has convened an emergency government session for 1930 tonight.

Goncz Addresses Nation

LD1212215493 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1805 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Address to the nation by President Arpad Goncz, place not given—live]

[Excerpts] My fellow citizens: Hungarian Prime Minister Dr. Jozsef Antall, following a long and heroic struggle with a mortal disease which undermined his health, has returned his soul to his creator. Although we had to be prepared for this, this news has shaken us all and fills our heart with pain. [passage omitted]

As the first elected prime minister of the new Hungary, he has undertaken an incredibly difficult service: to steer and safely moor the country's boat on the western bank of Europe and, following almost uninterrupted centuries of authoritarianism and dictatorship, to lead our nation to the doorstep of people's rule, democracy.

To the doorstep of democracy, I say, since the border line between dictatorship and democracy is not a red line, which can be crossed by a single step, but a wide zone, full of political and economic obstacles. A country, a society becomes democratic only when the overwhelming majority of the country's population has struggled through this zone as far as its values, its way of thinking and behaviour is concerned.

Three and a half years, even if vitally important years, are just a passing moment in the history of a 1,100 year-old country. A contemporary can hardly undertake to draw a credible balance of this period. However, we can justly claim that under the direct guidance of its prime minister, our country has started out toward the much- desired democracy, and has advanced as far as possible during this time. [passage omitted; regrets Antall cannot lead the country to next elections]

I not only believe, but also know, that up to his death Jozsef Antall, the statesman, served the uninterrupted and unbreakable continuity of Hungarian democracy. I am convinced that, besides taking cognizance of God's will, this awareness reconciled him to the thought of death.

We Hungarian citizens, no matter for which party's candidate we are going to cast our vote, can best pay tribute to the memory of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and can best serve his intellectual heritage, if, holding in respect his belief, intention, and faith in the future, we elect to parliament our most worthy fellow citizens in a spotlessly clean election, based on the battle of ideas.

Every death is an occasion to cast an account of ourselves, our lives. The shocking death of the prime minister is a particularly good chance for an account. Let us face ourselves, as Hungarians, or citizens of other nationalitiescitizens of our common homeland, party members or non-party persons, and let us ask the question whether we have done or do everything what we could or can do in order to truly serve our closer community and our entire country, and if we did, with what kind of means we did it. This is how we should pay our respect at the prime minister's grave.

Today, in accordance with Point C of Article 33/A of the constitution, the authorization of the government has ceased with the death of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall. I have asked Dr Peter Boross, interior minister, that until my further decision, he should carry out the task of acting prime minister and lead—until the formation of the next government—the work of the current government which remains in office in accordance with Article 39/B of the constitution.

Government Issues Communique

AU1312080293 Budapest MTI in English 2306 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, 12 Dec (MTI)—Interior Minister Peter Boross convened government members in a special session at 7.30 P.M. [1830 GMT] on Sunday [12 December]. After the about 90-minute discussion, Spokeswoman Judit Juhasz read out the following communique approved by the government:

"Profoundly shaken, the Government of the Republic of Hungary announces the death of Prime Minister Dr Jozsef Antall on December 12, 1993, at 5.15 P.M.

"After receiving the news, the government held a special session, also attended by Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, and Gyorgy Szabad, speaker of parliament.

"Jozsef Antall earned imperishable merits as an opposition politician and later as prime minister in eliminating autocratic rule, in creating the democratic, parliamentary and constitutional order of the Republic of Hungary, in restoring the country's independence, European alignment and international prestige, and in setting up a social market economy.

"He spared no effort in struggling for the rise of Hungarians even amid the trials of his illness.

"The government asks all institutions to hoist the black flag.

"Arrangements for the time of the funeral will be made—in agreement with the family—at a later date.

"Adhering to the intellectual bequest of Jozsef Antall and in keeping with the constitutional order, the Government of the Republic of Hungary performs its work and fulfils its duties as a caretaker government."

Following, Judit Juhasz outlined Arpad Goncz's letter, in which the president informs government members that as under Section 33/A of the Constitution the commission of the current government ended, he asks Interior Minister Peter Boross to perform his functions as acting prime minister until further notice. Cabinet members expressed unanimous support for the decisions taken.

The spokeswoman then read out the report issued by the team of doctors treating the prime minister about the course of Jozsef Antall's illness.

"The disease of the lymphatic system, called non-Hodgkin lymphoma, was diagnosed in October 1990 through the histological test of an enlarged lymph node.

"The treatment was taking place at Semmelweis Medical University Hospital. Combined chemical and radiation therapy had resulted in a complete clinical improvement (symptom-free state) by spring 1991. Six months later, the disease spread to other organs of the lymphatic system. Continued treatment led to further improvement. The team of doctors determined the kind of therapy to be applied at regular consultations with the participation of university professor Volker Diehl (Cologne).

"In August 1993, parent cells were separated and conserved at the 1st medical clinic of Cologne University. After appropriate chemical therapy, the cells were transplanted in October, with good results.

"Six weeks after the operation, the disease occurred in a new form gravely affecting bone-marrow blood formation (acute lymphocytic leukemia). This unexpected complication also proved influencible, but increasingly serious cardiac disorders occurred. The cause of death was cardiac insufficiency."

Budapest, December 12, 1993

Dr Kalman Rak, university professor

Dr Gyorgy Nemeth, university professor

Dr Emil Schultheisz, university professor

Dr Elod Laszlo, chief physician

Judit Juhasz next briefly outlined the legal status of a caretaker government. She said that the government's commission expires when the prime minister dies, as provided by section 33/A of the Constitution. On termination of its commission, the government remains in office until a new cabinet is formed, and exercises all the rights due to a government.

However, it must not conclude international agreements and can frame decrees only by definite legal authorization, in cases of pressing urgency.

At the same time, it can freely perform other government functions, such as submitting bills to Parliament, passing resolutions, deciding on personnel questions, making appointments and exemptions within its sphere of competence, presenting related proposals to the president of the Republic and proposing decorations.

To sum up, within the limits of constitutional provisions the caretaker government also has the authorizations and powers needed to maintain the country's viability, the spokeswoman said.

She finally announced that arrangements for Jozsef Antall's funeral will be made later on, in agreement with the family. The cabinet asked Peter Boross to take charge of funeral arrangements.

Socialist Party Chief Reacts

LD1212210893 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1932 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] [Announcer] Gyula Horn, chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Party [HSP], is on the line.

[Horn] I was very much staggered by the news and I am sorry for the death of the prime minister. Let me express the deepest condolences on behalf of the Hungarian Socialist Party and myself to the family of Mr Jozsef Antall, the government, the Hungarian Democratic Forum. The HSP will do what the other democratic parliamentary forces will do. That is, it will do its best so that the parliamentary parties will be characterized by dialogue, self- restraint and readiness for cooperation, because in my view, just as in 1990 when Jozsef Antall took over a weighty heritage, the country is now in a difficult situation. A deepening crisis must be managed; we have to get to next spring's parliamentary elections in peace, therefore the readiness [for cooperation] of every rational political force is necessary.

Boross Cited on Priorities, Government Meeting

AU1312094993 Budapest MTI in English 0758 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, 13 Dec (MTI)—"My priorities include continued stability, public peace, constitutional order and fulfilment of what remains from the government's programme," Acting Prime Minister Peter Boross said in his first radio statement after the special cabinet session on Sunday evening.

In the brief interview, broadcast on Monday morning, Boross said the cabinet meeting had taken place in a tragical atmosphere. The government expressed its adherence to the intellectual bequest of deceased prime minister Jozsef Antall.

"The nation has lost a great son," Boross said, adding that Jozsef Antall was a historic personality not understood, or even accused, in many instances. He accepted this, aware of the burdens a prime minister has to carry in periods like this.

"Amidst false promises and distorted criticism, he concentrated on the need for measures that would cause a difficult situation temporarily. It was necessary to start creating a new ownership structure, because the country's former property relations were extremely backward and unworthy of Europe," Boross said. Antall had a strong sense of duty, he was committed to the nation and was less mindful of applauses, Boross said.

The acting prime minister pointed out that the cabinet was to transform itself into a caretaker government according to the Constitution. He believed it would act with resolution, true to the spirit of Jozsef Antall, and carry on implementing Antall's programme.

Regarding the legal procedure needed to form a government, Boross said that the president of the Republic will nominate a prime minister, with the cabinet to be set up within 40 days. A nomination is made when the coalition parties come to agreement. It is a legal custom rather than a constitutional rule that the president nominates the coalition's candidate. Should Parliament be unable to decide on the prime minister's person, new elections must be called within 90 days.

In the meantime, however, including the 1994 campaign period, the caretaker cabinet will be in charge of governmental tasks.

Finally, Boross stressed, "now we have to bid a solemn farewell to Jozsef Antall, not forgetting about the country's present and future. In the days to come, highly important talks will be held to solve the situation in the wake of the prime minister's death."

KDNP Chief on Accord for New Prime Minister

LD1312100193 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungaria 0700 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] [Announcer] According to Bela Csepe, head of the Christian Democratic People's Party [KDNP], the coalition parties will be able to agree on the person of the new prime minister.

[Begin Csepe recording] The president of the republic summoned us, leaders of the parliamentary groups, and gave us a briefing about the situation that has evolved. At the same time, he announced that he is launching discussions so that he will be able to give the mandate to the new prime minister to form a government as soon as possoble.

A few days are needed for that. I hope that perhaps even before Christmas, the parliament will be able to elect its new prime minister and his government. The deadline, incidentally, is 40 days from the day the mandate is given. So, if they cannot form a government within 40 days, the president of the republic will dissolve the parliament.

I do not expect this kind of development. We have to agree. There is enough strength, cohesion, and unity in the coalition to enable us to elect the new prime minister even before Christmas, as I have said. [end recording]

Goncz Discusses Issues 11 Dec

LD1112145293 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1005 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Interview with Hungarian President Arpad Goncz by correspondent Istvan Wisinger; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Wisinger] Good morning, I welcome the listeners, whom I represent to President Arpad Goncz. Of course, I also welcome Arpad Goncz. [passage omitted] With Christmas approaching, it would be nice to have a peaceful, summarizing discussion. But I think that the country's current situation will not allow us to have a peaceful discourse. For instance, everybody is thinking about the prime minister's health. [passage omitted] When was the last time that you talked to the prime minister?

[Goncz] It was just last week. I am regularly informed about his health condition. [Interior] Minister Peter Boross informs me almost every day. [passage omitted] I do not think I have to say that I am—also as a good friend—very worried. Beside worries, one also has a lot of hope that his willpower, that borders on the miraculous, will help him over this crisis and he will recover. [passage omitted]

[Wisinger] Newspapers—and not only Hungarian newspapers—are full of speculation. Do you wish to say anything in connection with them concerning the situation of the country?

[Goncz] Not about the speculation. There is no point in it. It is self-evident that in case of a prime minister's serious illness the issue of succession is topical nationwide and internationally. The Hungarian Constitution has a very laconic provision on this. [passage omitted] The aim for the country is to reach the second elections time smoothly. The aim is to keep the country functioning. The most important and substantial [aim] is to pass not political, but first and foremost, economic laws. Anyway life continues. Such a critical and dramatic moment does not make the process of life stop. I am convinced that the second elections will be held in a suitable manner and at the legally prescribed time.

[Wisinger] [Passage omitted] As I thumbed through our earlier conversations [I saw that] I had asked you on 27 March 1992 in Szigliget: Will there be elections at all in 1994? Then you said: Why not, I do not think they will be cancelled or postponed.

[Goncz] In spite of all the tension that understandably prevails in this country, this is a democratic country. I do not doubt for a minute that the elections will be held. Obviously, the country feels both consciously and instinctively that in the life of a young democracy the second elections are more important than the first one. They are more important because in the first we had something to vote against. The second is taking place within a democracy. Thus, whatever will be the result of the elections, it will be a vote in favor of the continuance of democracy, whichever party gets the votes. [passage omitted]

[Wisinger] During the past weeks the LA STAMPA affair was thoroughly dealt with. That is, an Italian paper carried articles that gave fuel to attacks against you. What was your opinion after your read these articles?

[Goncz] I would lie if I said that I was pleased. [passage omitted] It was partly an analysis and partly a piece of journalism that was justified by the situation of LA STAMPA and the momentary Italian political situation. I have to add that this happened [the publication] more than a fortnight after the discussion [with the Italian journalist]. [In the article] he mentions events that could not be discussed. If somebody writes that he got an impression from my words...[pauses] I really cannot do anything about the impressions others may have. [passage omitted] I have the text and the tapes of this [talk with the journalist], but I feel it absolutely unnecessary to deal with this, because it is LA STAMPA's affair and not mine.

[Wisinger] [Passage omitted] What is the situation of press freedom like in Hungary?

[Goncz] Double-faceted, as everything. Considering not only the opinion of one side but also the government's viewpoint, on the one hand—I refer to radio and television—it is incomplete. On the other hand, regarding the behavior of the press, it is not only complete but occasionally exaggerated. When I go through the dailies—from PESTI HIRLAP through MAGYAR HIRLAP to KURIR, I am not talking about HUNNIA or its like [extremist papers]—sometimes I have an impression that a lot of things are written down that are very unnecessary. These things magnify tempers like a focusing lens, over explain events and make people and events important who and which are not important. [passage omitted]

Awards Antall Order of Merit

LD1112162593 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Arpad Goncz has awarded Jozsef Antall the Big Cross Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic. This is what the communique which arrived a few minutes ago says:

President of the Republic Arpad Goncz has awarded Prime Minister Jozsef Antall the Big Cross Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic in recognition of his activity in shaping the democratic constitutional order of the Hungarian Republic, in restoring its independence, its European integration, and international recognition, in the interest of the advance of Hungarians.

The decoration was handed over personally by Arpad Goncz during his visit to the prime minister this afternoon, in the presence of Interior Minister Peter Boross.

Antall Letter Read at HDF Board Meeting

LD1112132493 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] [Announcer] We now report on the meeting of the national board of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [HDF] in Lakitelek. Zsuzsa Ladanyi is the correspondent.

[Ladanyi] The HDF National Board members, who are meeting in Lakitelek, were very stricken by the change in the medical condition of Jozsef Antall, party chairman and prime minister, that was called dramatic by HDF Executive Chairman Sandor Lezsak, in the opening speech of today's meeting. He [Lezsak] said it was something that no one had expected.

He recalled a conversation with Jozsef Antall a few days earlier, that had given cause for hope. He then read out the letter that the party chairman had sent from his hospital bed to the participants in the National Board session.

I shall quote from it [Antall's letter sent to HDF board session]:

The HDF, as the ruling party, can prepare with hope for the elections in spring 1994. The task now of the National Board, for the sake of success in the 1994 elections, is to prepare—and recommend to the spring national meeting—an election program of a high standard similar to that of 1989, which is in line with the country's interests, Jozsef Antall wrote.

He referred to the decline in inflation and unemployment, and then continued the letter as follows:

If we look back to the past years, we see a nation on the ascent, a Hungary that is being rebuilt. The private economy produces more than 50 percent of the national income. Instead of bankrupt enterprises manufacturing products which cannot be sold, more and more plants are being formed that operate with higher-level technology and produce goods of higher quality, whose products meet the requirements of not only the eastern markets.

Our exceptional stability has gained the confidence of investors. World companies have come here to found enterprises. The rebuilt country is gaining strength from day to day, and the new is now being built at a rate that is faster than the collapse of the old. Our endeavor is that the majority of the electors should be able to identify with our program, and they should feel that they are participants in the process of a system-change that we began in spring 1990. Our aim is, amid the region's economic conditions, to create the possibility of achieving the most favorable standard of living for all of our countrymen.

After the letter from Jozsef Antall was read out, Sandor Lezsak asked Deputy Chairman Peter Boross [interior minister and acting prime minister during Antall's illness] to acquaint the delegates with the events of the past hours. We cannot inform the listeners of Chronicle about this; the journalists at this point were asked to leave, after which the meeting continued behind closed doors.

Attending the meeting are: National Assembly Speaker Gyoergy Szabad, Defense Minister Lajos Fur, Foreign Affairs Minister Geza Jeszenszky, Justice Minister Istvan Balsai, and Gyorgy Schamschula, minister of transport and telecommunications.

Olechowski Warns of Russian 'Imperial Thinking'

LD1212173193 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] According to Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski, the West does not understand that the post-Cold War security vacuum in central and East Europe could be filled by Russia, which is already showing signs of imperial thinking.

The Polish minister, who departs for Washington tomorrow for talks with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, has said in an interview for THE NEW YORK TIMES that the Clinton administration and the leaders of western Europe have to realize that leaving Poland as a no-man's land would have disastrous consequences for the whole of European security. The head of Polish diplomacy declared that in Washington he will not be seeking a specific date for Poland's acceptance in NATO but for specific prospects of membership in the pact.

Leaves for Washington Talks

LD1312094793 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 0900 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski left Warsaw for Washington this morning. The Polish minister is going to present to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher a Polish stand on the issue of our membership in NATO and on the U.S. proposal for partnership for peace

The Polish side considers the proposal of partnership a step leading to NATO, and will require conditions to be defined for our admission to the treaty.

Defense Minister Comments on NATO's Role

LD1012214993 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1800 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] According to National Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk, Poland does not need the North Atlantic pact in its present form; its mandate ran out at the time of the liquidation of the Warsaw Pact Organization.

Minister Kolodziejczyk expressed this view during the ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the Reserve Officers' Club in Krobia, in Leszno Voivodship. According to Piotr Kolodziejczyk, NATO could become the center point for the construction of a future system of European security but first it will have to be reformed.

Kolodziejczyk also said that in view of its geopolitical position, Poland could not become a neutral state, while the best solution for the existing status quo would be to work out a system of security for the whole of Europe.

Customs Officers Foil Arms Shipment to Russia

LD1312125093 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1039 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Szczecin, 13 Dec (PAP)—Customs officers from Swinoujscie have foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of arms, Wieslawa Chacinska from the Szczecin customs office announced. Almost 17,000 gas pistols valued at over 42,000,000,000 zlotys were found in a lorry on board of the "Wilanow" ferry.

Customs officers also discovered 711 air guns, electric pistols, electric batons, holsters, flamethrowers, knives and daggers, optic laser sights, handcuffs, signalling flares, and so on.

Documents indicate the cargo contained sport accessories and was to be delivered to Russia.

Pawlak Seeks Better Cooperation With EFTA

LD1012182993 Warsaw PAP in English 1332 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Warsaw, Dec 10—Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak said after his Friday meeting with five ambassadors of member-countries of the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) that he was counting on an improvement in Poland's relations, especially economic, from the start of next year.

According to the prime minister, the meeting helped to clarify many issues, which would have a positive impact on bilateral trade and on the ratification process of the agreement between Poland and EFTA signed in November.

A similar opinion on the meeting was voiced on behalf of the five EFTA ambassadors by Austrian Ambassador to Poland Gerhard Wagner.

Swiss Ambassador Jean Olivier said his country was considering the possibility of converting Polish debt owed to Switzerland into investments in environmental protection.

Daily on Conflict Between President, TV Council

WS1012143193 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 10 Dec 93 p 4

[Report by Tomasz Stanczyk: "President Does Not Trust, Council Works"; penultimate paragraph attributed to SIS; last paragraph unattributed]

[Text] "I get the impression that something has happened. However, we will explain things to each other later on," said Marek Markiewicz, chairman of the National Council of Radio and Television [KRRiT], at a press conference on 9 December.

Among the important events that have taken place since the last press conference, as the most important one

Markiewicz listed the registration of the central company Polish Radio. However, after the current work of the council was presented, the conference was dominated by the statements, made a few days ago, by high officials in the Office of the President of the Polish Republic, that Lech Walesa intends to withdraw his support for three KRRiT members: Marek Markiewicz, Maciej Ilowiecki, and Ryszard Bender.

"The decision that the president will withdraw his support for the people he designated suggests that the council's report, no matter what it looks like, will not be accepted. We understand that this is a proposal that we resign or that we shorten the term of the council after it submits its report," stated Marek Markiewicz.

The KRRiT head rejected the possibility that the statements concerning three members of the council are related to the evaluation of its work. "Nothing more could be done under the conditions in which we had to work. We did not waste even a second. I feel that we are doing our job very well. We will submit ourselves to evaluation, in line with the law, after we present our report," declared Markiewicz.

Responding to the accusation that the council has not cooperated with the president, Marek Markiewicz said that the council had been trying to meet with him, but it was all in vain. A meeting of three KRRiT members with the president was scheduled to take place on 11 November. However, it was canceled by the office of Minister Wachowski. The council always forwarded all the resolutions that it had made to the president.

"We should carry out our duties jointly with state bodies. We expect cooperation," declared Andrzej Zarebski. "If politics, which is once again placing the activities of KRRiT under a big question mark, aims to paralyze its activities, then we think that this is against the interests of the state and against the tasks that the council should perform. We must simply do our job—in this team that we are now."

Commenting on the president's statement to PAP, concerning the three members of the council, that: "I hope that they will have enough honor to present their resignations to me," Maciej Ilowiecki said that he would himself decide matters concerning his honor.

KRRiT has received 393 license applications: 278 for radio programs and 115 for television programs. Ten applications concern a nationwide television service. The following companies want to receive such a license: Antena 1, TV 7, Canal Plus (this is supposed to be an encoded, paid television), Polsat, Independent Polish Television, All-National Private Television, the Polonia 1 network, Top Canal Media. The two remaining applicants, which have so far not been very well known, are the Niepokalanow Television, which is supposed to be organized by the Franciscans, and the United Entertainment Enterprises, an employees-owned partnership, which plans to open the Polish Antenna television.

The following applicants are trying to obtain licenses for nationwide radio programs: Radio Zet, RMF, Radio Info, Radio "Eska," Polstudio, Radio Beta, and Stanley Malinowski.

Because of a deadlock in the talks with the Army on offering frequency waves, KRRiT asked the Communication Institute in Wroclaw to design (construct) a nationwide radio and television network.

—After a meeting with Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak on 9 December, Wieslaw Walendziak, president of the Polish Television company, said that the premier offered him words of comfort and that he was looking forward to seeing public television "functioning." Walendziak stated that he does not consider himself ("I am too small a person") the cause of the conflict between the president and KRRiT. According to him, Marek Markiewicz guarantees that the process of transforming state-run television will be continued.

—Combating the illegal transmission of radio and television broadcasts was the subject of the Thursday [9 December] meeting of Deputy Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz with KRRiT Chairman Marek Markiewicz and representatives of the following ministries: communication, finances, justice, and the Main Headquarters of Police.

Republic Movement Leader Elected

LD1212140493 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1007 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Warsaw, 12 Dec—The Movement for the Republic has elected Romuald Szeremietiew to the post of party leader. In a secret ballot Szeremietiew received 106 votes. [Former Prime Minister] Jan Olszewski, leader of the movement until now, received 100 votes. This information was obtained from Zbigniew Farmus from the movement's office. Szeremietiew said that he "will transform the movement into a party which will be run and managed efficiently and which will become a principal element on the political scene."

The congress, which completed its deliberations this morning, adopted the movement's statute and elected its Supreme Political Council.

Discusses Role of Center-Right

LD1212152893 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 1300 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Romuald Szeremietiew has been elected the new chairman of the Movement for the Republic. [passage omitted] Asked whether he sees any possibilities for the center-right groupings to have an influence on the form of the new constitution, the new chairman of the movement said:

[Begin recording] [Szeremietiew] Politics means power relations. If the center-right manages to unite and create

a strong center to represent its electorate—which constitutes several million people in Poland who did vote for the right—if such credible representation emerges, I do not think that any political center can then ignore the position of such a grouping. Such a center has not emerged so far.

[Correspondent Przemyslaw Barbrich] What will happen to the proposal put forward by the Confederation for an Independent Poland which wants to represent the right in the Sejm?

[Szeremietiew] This must be a joint decision, to be made by groupings which will make up the center-right, as to whether they will want to take up this offer.

[Barbrich] What does the movement think about this matter?

[Szeremietiew] I can only say what Romuald Szeremietiew thinks about this matter. I know Leszek Moczulski [Confederation for an Independent Poland leader] and I am very cautious about this issue. [end recording]

[Announcer] Przemyslaw Barbrich was speaking to Romuald Szeremietiew.

UD's Geremek on Unification With KLD

WS1312113093 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 11-12 Dec 93 p 3

[Interview with Bronislaw Geremek, chairman of Democratic Union Deputies Club, by Aleksandra Fandrejewska; place and date not given: "One Does Not Have To Like the Reality"]

[Text] [Fandrejewska] In the last two months the leaders of many groupings have decided that their parties will form political coalitions. When making such decisions, do they wonder whether or not the decisions can raise certain doubts or questions among party members and supporters?

[Geremek] We still have 300 very diversified political parties. Unification of the parties may be a process that voters do not approve of; however, this is happening outside the parliament, outside the configuration. Also, the responsibility of politicians is in this case deferred until the next elections. A voter cannot withdraw his vote; he already cast it on 19 September; this creates the ambiguity of the situation, because such activities mean that this or that party is getting ready for the next elections. To avoid a theoretical discussion, let us talk about the unification of the Democratic Union [UD] and the Liberal-Democratic Congress [KLD]. This unification is quite likely because both parties have a very similar electorate. For this reason, this unification may be a very natural process. However, this still remains to be seen in the next few months.

[Fandrejewska] What can you tell the skeptics?

[Geremek] I can really persuade anyone that UD and KLD made a mistake when they decided to run in the elections separately and that now they are on the right track, and... we will see what happens next. I received a letter from a group of voters, who wrote: We voted for KLD, for list No. 7, and we feel that our votes were taken advantage of by another program and another party. Therefore, we are supporting the idea of the unification of UD and KLD, and we believe that this is a natural process.

[Fandrejewska] You did not get any other letters?

[Geremek] Yes, I did. A UD voter wrote that after the UD club turned against the new government coalition, he felt that he had been betrayed. He thought that UD was a party capable of reaching a compromise and that it gave priority to the interest of the state over the interest of the party. I believe, however, that we should definitely be in the opposition. Why am I speaking about this? These two letters prove what doubts and hesitations people have been undergoing since the elections.

[Fandrejewska] If parties do not have their representatives in the parliament, should they not focus on trying to win over as many supporters and members as possible?

[Geremek] Well, I think that, while answering such a question, we should not forget the real political situation. Now, look at all the coalitions that have been formed outside the parliament. Sometimes, as a result of forming them and preparing the coalition's programmatic consensus, the trust that the parties enjoyed among their voters, drastically wanes. Some contracts are not concluded on the basis of programs, but against them. Is this the case with UD and KLD? I do not think so... Self-government elections are drawing near, and both our parties must decide how they are going to run in them. We do not know when the next parliamentary elections will be held; even if they are held in four years, we should already begin political work on forming local organizational structures. This is the right time to persuade people that the party that will be formed after the unification, is close to the aspirations of many people.

[Fandrejewska] We are less interested in self-government elections than we are in parliamentary, which galvanize us to action...

[Geremek] I agree that there is one great difference between parliamentary and self-government elections: The former are far more political than they are self-governmental. This is the case in all countries. However, I do not think that such low interest in local elections is a normal thing. I believe that it is the local democracy that is of paramount importance for the future of Poland. The term "civil society" has been worn out in various publications in recent years; however, it does have a very real content: It means people's activeness. Well, people's activeness in politics entails their activities at the local level.

[Fandrejewska] Forming party coalitions is now a natural process?

[Geremek] I think it is. It is inevitable in a transition period.

[Fandrejewska] Politicians are more willing to talk about the bad programmatic condition of their groupings. They are less inclined to discuss organizational and financial problems. Is it not so that parties are forming coalitions because their existence depends on being in the parliament?

[Geremek] I could answer this question with another question: Can you show me a party, in any country, which has not gotten to the parliament and felt good? The parties that were established after 1989 are as poor as church mice. If they get any money, it is only for a short time: For the election campaign, for buying publications. There is no law on financing political parties, a law that would envision a budget for political parties in the state budget, which would, in a sense, be a natural phenomenon. The tax- payers should be interested in this, because then they would feel more certain that parties will not get involved in all kinds of murky agreements. Recent events on the Italian political scene can serve as a warning for everyone. There is no such law; however, the Electoral Law does envision certain funds for election campaigns: Expense reimbursement. In the case of small and medium-sized parties, this expense reimbursement is rarely equal to the real costs that have been incurred. In the case of large parties, such as the Democratic Left Alliance or the Polish Peasant Party, which received many votes in the last elections, such an expense reimbursement enables them to conduct normal activities. A party such as UD can only rely on deputies' and senators' offices. I believe that this system is not defective; however, the situation of the parties that are outside the parliament is really more difficult.

[Fandrejewska] Do you think that the parliamentary elections results accelerated this natural, as you said, process of coalition formation and unification of parties?

[Geremek] Elections certainly change the political scene; however, do they change it in the right direction? I think that one does not have to like the reality; however, there is a duty to respect it. This is simply the situation—this is what has happened. Election results reflect the condition of the people's will, and political parties must simply accept it. How? Well, first of all by uniting and creating bigger parties. The Electoral Law will not be changed—we must simply make up our minds about it: It will not be changed by those who have been elected to the parliament in line with this law. I do not think that we will have small parties in Poland that will tip the scales. Second, groupings should have clear programs.

[Fandrejewska] What do you mean by saying that a party is big?

[Geremek] It is a party that obtains over 20 percent of the votes in the elections. UD should be such a party or it should form it with others. For us, 20 percent of the votes in the next elections will be the lower limit of our success.

More Reaction to Ilascu Death Sentence

Russia Denies Involvement

AU1012125693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] This morning we received the following press statement issued by the ambassador of the Russian Federation in Bucharest:

In the evening of 9 December and during the night of 9-10 December, demonstrations started and continued in front of the Embassy in connection with the pronouncement of sentence in the Tiraspol trial.

As the Russian side has repeatedly declared, Russia had and has no connection with that trial or with those arrested during the tragic events of last summer and indicted in the trial. All these are citizens of the sovereign Republic of Moldova and their fate has not and could not have been decided in Moscow.

Nevertheless, for humanitarian considerations, this problem was discussed during the meetings held between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President Mircea Snegur of the Republic of Moldova. The two presidents repeatedly urged the Tiraspol authorities to show leniency toward the persons in question and to transfer their file to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Moldova.

In agreement with Chisinau, the Russian side took other steps as well, although our abilities to influence decisions made in Tiraspol are limited.

The position of the Russian Federation, as President Boris Yeltsin also stated, is that the problem concerning the Tiraspol trial should be solved according to legal and humanitarian norms. The organization of demonstrations in front of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bucharest, especially when aimed at applying pressure, is pointless. Demonstrations can only mislead public opinion as far as Russia's real position is concerned and create difficulties in the activity of the Embassy, which is doing everything that it can to develop good relations of friendship between Russia and Romania.

The statement is signed by Mr.Yevgenniy Ostrovenko, ambassador of the Russian Federation in Bucharest.

Iliescu Appeals to UN, EC

AU1012170693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1604 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 10/12/1993—On 10 December 1993, President Ion Iliescu of Romania sent a message to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, to Ms. Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe, to Wilhelm Hoynck, secretary general of CSCE, to Max van der Stoel, CSCE high commissioner for ethnic minorities, to Ms. Audrey Glover, director of the CSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and to Amnesty International, which runs:

"As I have already informed you, the authorities of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic are determined to proceed to a political assassination against their ideological opponents under the pretext of a so-called trial that has ignored the most elementary human rights. I wish to thank you for your previous interventions in the support of justice and of human rights, but, unfortunately, I see myself compelled to bring to your cognizance the fact that our most sombre fears have now become a fact. In total disregard of requests from all over the world for a fair trial, the authorities of Tiraspol have sentenced a man, Ilie Ilascu, to death, and other five persons to long jail terms. These sentences were given in a first pronouncement, without the right to appeal.

I am addressing now to you again with the plea to do everything in you power to stop the order to kill from being carried out, and to have the trial of the Ilascu group transferred to the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova, as a sovereign state, member of the United Nations Organization and of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and as the only authority having the legal competence to try its own citizens in its own territory, the only one in the position to ensure a fair trial in compliance with the laws in force and with the human rights."

Iliescu, Snegur Discuss Sentence

AU1012193893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1823 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 10/12/1993—On 10 December Romania's President Ion Iliescu had a telephone conversation with President Mircea Snegur of the Republic of Moldova in connection with the situation arising from the sentence passed in the case of the trial in Tiraspol against the group of Romanian patriots led by Ilie Ilascu.

The two presidents informed each other about the demarches made to prevent the enforcement of the murder for which the authorities of Tiraspol have found a political motivation, and agreed to take further steps with all the fora likely to determine the transfer of the trial to the competent authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

Spiroiu Returns From China Visit, Comments

AU1312085893 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Today the military delegation headed by Lieutenant General Niculae Spiroiu, Romanian national defense minister, has returned home from the official visit paid to the PRC. At Otopeni airport Spiroiu made a statement to our correspondent, Dragos Bucurenciu, from which we selected the following passage:

[Begin Spiroiu recording] Despite the fact that our visit was a short one, we still managed to achieve all our goals, in the sense that I had very interesting talks with my Chinese counterpart, General Chi Haotian. We also held talks with the vice chairman of China's Central Military

Commission, General Liu Huaqing, with the head of the chief of staff, and the head of the commission for science and technology. We convened regarding the ways in which, by means of coordinating our activity in the field of military policy—and I emphasize this—in concordance with the foreign policies of our two states, we could contribute to the elimination of conflicts in the interest zones of the two countries, especially those of Romania, and to the prevention of future conflicts.

Besides this, we mutually briefed each other with respect to the modernizing process currently under way within the two armed forces—because one of the fields of modernization is the one carried out in national defense—so we briefed each other mutually, examined the stages each of our forces has reached, and we concluded that there are many fields in which we could usefully exchange experience. [end recording]

Iliescu, Melescanu Send Condolences to Hungary

AU1212204893 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Today Romanian President Ion Iliescu sent a telegram of condolence to Hungary's President Arpad Goncz that says: We have learned with profound regret about the premature passing away of Hungary's Prime Minister Jozsef Antall. Expressing our feelings of compassion for you and the Hungarian people, I ask you to convey our sincere regrets to the mourning family.

Romania's Foreign Affairs Minister Teodor Melescanu has also sent a telegram of condolence to his Hungarian counterpart, Geza Jeszenszky.

Iliescu Trying To Create One 'Leading Party'

AU1112160693 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 4-5 Dec 93 p 3

[Marina Roman article: "Steadily Advancing Toward the Single Party"]

[Text] President Iliescu has been trying for some time now to sanction a new concept, the concept of "national concord" which should replace the old term of "national consensus." In other words, Mr. Iliescu gave up the idea of appealing to us for "identity of ideas" proposing instead "harmony." The parliamentary opposition noticed the linguistic difference and thus accepted the initiative advanced by Cotroceni [Presidency] to participate in the national committee in charge of preparing the national day celebrations, trusting the president who expressed the wish that Alba Iulia should become the meeting place of all the successors of those who accomplished the union. As a natural course of this idea, it should have been followed by an invitation extended to the successor of King Ferdinand to visit Romania. Although such an invitation should have been normal, the PAC [Party of Civic Alliance] nevertheless proposed it to the president. Moreover, King Mihai expressed his wish to spend the National Day together with his fellow Romanians. He would have come here like any other ordinary Romanian, respecting the constitution. The day of 1 December would have remained in our memories as an event of true harmony. The presence of King Mihai in Romania—now or at any other time—is not a political move, because, once the constitution has been voted, the republic/monarchy alternative can no longer be a subject for discussions. The president himself knows best that most of the opposition parties have a republican orientation. The great majority of those who voted for the parties that are included in the opposition are republicans. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Minister Theodor Melescanu, mentioned that granting the entry visa to King Mihai is only a "technical problem." Under these conditions the refusal of the representatives of the opposition to participate officially to the Alba Iulia events is the protest of politicians against the flagrant violation of the Constitution and of human rights. From the official rostrum, higher than the law itself, President Iliescu scolded us (including himself "with your approval the last one on the list") that we are "wasting ourselves in futile confrontations." He made impersonal allusions to the opposition that it: "finds or invents pretexts to hide the lack of the wish to cooperate." For the president the violation of the Constitution and he defiance of human rights are invented pretexts probably intended to deflect us from "complete unity" and "joining efforts."

The leadership has proved again that it is incapable of understanding democracy and pluralism. For those in power the dictatorship of the majority is similar to the dictatorship of the proletariat. Those who are not with us are against us! Because they have refused to honor the leadership, the leaders of the parliamentary opposition ended up in the hands of the law enforcement bodies. And this is still not so bad! One never knows what tomorrow might bring considering the visceral fear that has overcome President Iliescu. This fear make him act undemocratically, if not actually illegally. This fear makes him behave in an impolite way not only toward the former sovereign calling him "the former king" and "a phantom of the past" but also toward each citizen of this country who is familiar with and respects the history of this country. This fear has made him surround himself with leading representatives of the Ceausescu regime in order to have their support. This fear made it possible that the Senate voted those articles in the Penal Code that obstruct freedom of expression. This fear made the president of the Chamber of Deputies suggest a law by which King Mihai would be banned from entering the country where he was born. This fear of the fact that people who have been born equal before the law are different makes the president behave in the way he does. Translated into wooden language, the concept of "national concord" is understood by Romania's president as "complete unity" gathered around the leading party.

Censure Motion Against Government Published

AU1312091693 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 8 Dec 93 p 1

[Text of the "censure motion" against the government adopted by the opposition parties at a meeting of the

Executive Committee of the Democratic Convention of Romania in Bucharest on 7 December]

[Text] One year after the inauguration of the government led by Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, the senators and deputies who sign this document note that:

1. The promised reform has not yet started. There is no political will for economic recovery. The results of the present governance are: anarchy, unprecedented corruption, and uncertainty of what tomorrow might bring.

2. Inflation goes unchecked, because of the government's incompetence in economic matters, something that has led to the ever growing pauperization of all social categories. The population is faced with the same hardships as before 1989: cold and hunger.

3. Economic growth is only an illusion as long as the government continues to irresponsibly subsidize nonprofitable enterprises from the taxes paid by each citizen of this country. Cumbersome rules for the majority of employees and enterprises lead to stagnation and economic regression.

4. Political indecision about the leu's convertibility, which should have been tackled concurrent with the promotion of rapid economic restructuring, has led to the collapse of the national currency, a process that is still going on.

5. The budgetary policy blocks administrative decentralization and ignores the requirements of the local public administration, which actually expresses the vital needs of the citizens. The deplorable situation of the country's localities is directly linked to the excessive centralization of budgetary resources available to the government.

6. The implementation of the Land Law, with all its imperfections, is carried out at an inadmissible slow pace and the intention to tax agricultural owners, before they have regained their rights, deliberately pushes them into a situation of being unable to till the land and thus having to abandon it.

7. Mafia-like monopolies and networks are maintained and continue to develop in important economic spheres, thus leading to the chaotic increase in prices.

8. The population has lost its hope in an economic recovery. The programmatic statements through which the government kept promising new jobs and an end to unemployment—thus attributing to itself imaginary successes—are no longer trustworthy.

9. The crisis in which the current government has thrown the country is hampering the process of European integration.

In these conditions, taking note of the total bankruptcy of the government's economic policy and the total loss of its credibility, the signatories—in accordance with Article 112 of Romania's Constitution—advance this Censure Motion and call on all senators and deputies to join them and express by vote their lack of confidence in the current government, thus opening up the road for negotiations to find a new governmental formula, with a democratic reform program, based on the political will to take the country out of the crisis.

PRM Against Censure Motion

AU1212193193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1617 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/12/1993—A meeting of the executive of the Greater Romania Party's [PRM] National Council started on Saturday, 11 December, in the presence of Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu, Finance Minister Florin Georgescu, Government Secretary Viorel Hrebenciuc, and Octav Cosmirca [state secretary and head of the Local Administration Department].

The president of PRM, Corneliu Vadim Tudor, said in his opening address that the executive bureau of his political party have decided not to vote the motion of censure called by the opposition which was viewed as "a new attempt of the opposition to overthrow the government." He also considered that the change of the government "in the middle of this harsh winter" would be an irresponsible act, the opposition taking advantage of the population's discontent to "give the final battle for power." The speaker also said that the sole alternative in this moment of tension would be the organization of local and general elections at the beginning of 1994, as well as a referendum on monarchy or republic.

Praising the activity unfolded by PRM and its attitude during the hard trials of this period, Premier Vacaroiu presented in his address a brief picture of the social and economic situation. Romania's premier also said that "the war of disinformation fought by the mass media" is detrimental to the government. "One cannot speak about finding solutions to the issues confronting Romania without laying stress on work," said Premier Vacaroiu, also showing that one of his government's mistakes was to highly support theoreticians "whom in certain cases proved incompatible in practice." Premier Vacaroiu also mentioned that the issuance of property certificates had been another mistake due to the lack of a solid mechanism to operate it.

A report was also read during the meeting of the PRM National Council regarding the activity unfolded by the party from its latest congress in March and until present and the main concerns of the party.

Moreover, the PRM Executive Bureau suggested the debate and approval of two documents on "reactions to the criminal frame-up in Tiraspol" and the party's stance as regards the avalanche of motions and declarations "that are invading the country."

Vacaroiu Condemns Motion

AU1112172493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1032 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 10/12/1993—In an interview with the government daily VOCEA ROMANIEI Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu criticizes the submission on December 7 of a no-confidence motion by the opposition and reviews the achievements of his government, saying that the executive is currently concerned with the social cost of transition.

After stating that the opposition's action delays the legislative process, especially as regards the proposals of normative acts pursuing the speeding up of the reform, Premier Vacaroiu says: "... In 1993 we achieved the most delicate and difficult things. It is precisely what has earned us credibility abroad. The successes scored by Romania in 1993, in the latter part of the year, were possible just because in its earlier part we convinced people with facts that a reform was going on in Romania".

Premier Vacaroiu quotes the subsidy cut, the liberalization of the retail mark-up, the application of the VAT [value added tax], the monitoring of the unprofitable companies, the process of privatization conducted by the state property fund.

Showing that the government is concerned "with the difficult situation of Romania especially in point of social cost of transition," Nicolae Vacaroiu states: "we are greatly concerned about the population's condition, especially about the condition of the underprivileged categories. I might say this is one of our daily preoccupations".

"We may wonder," the premier goes on, "what would have happened in Romania, what would have been the living standard, if we had not stopped the decline of material production, if we had not given absolute priority to agriculture, if we had not managed—in the absence of foreign financing—to secure this rise of industrial production and, I am emphatic about it, not kept in stocks but sold.... So, we have achieved a small step".

"I know that the country's social situation, the people's living standard are far from what we would have wanted", the premier concludes. "I repeat it, the step is small, but we have kept the living standard at 60-65 percent of what it was in October 1990. The situation would have really been most tragical in Romania had we not produced, had we not achieved a stoppage of the production decline".

UDMR Discusses Motions, Party Issues

AU0912180293 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] The censure motion does not represent a simple attempt to change the government, but rather is a coherent political offer to create a new executive power based on a different parliamentary majority capable of solving the serious problems currently confronting Romanian society, said Csaba Takacs, executive president of the UDMR [Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania] during today's news conference of this political formation.

The current balance in parliament, said the speaker, does not reflect reality. In society, the real majority is on the side of the opposition, something that has been also proved by the recent social events.

The UDMR is and will continue to be an active political factor that wishes to see the transition to a democratic society with a market economy accomplished, as an active component of the European system, Mr. Takacs added.

Approaching a different subject, he said that the UDMR participated in two rounds of discussions with the representatives of the other ethnic minorities, with partners in the Democratic Convention, in connection with the minorities law worked out by the UDMR. Regarding the withdrawal of the representatives of the party from the parliamentary commission in charge of drafting the education law, the speaker said that this was due to the refusal to accept the UDMR proposals or suggestions put forward by the Minorities' Council.

On the issue of participation in international events, the speaker mentioned the Conference of Liberal International held in Budapest, where, through the final declaration that was issued, important steps were taken forward regarding the concept of the political doctrine of the problem of minorities. The speaker also mentioned the participation of some UDMR members as observers, in the elections to be held in the Russian Federation.

In conclusion, the speaker announced that the UDMR will participate as an invited guest in the international congress of the Civic Alliance and in the congress of the Organizations of Hungarian Youth in Romania, our correspondent Florin Berstein reported.

Civic Alliance Congress Concludes

AU1212214493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Today, in the halls of the trade unions in Alba Iulia, the third congress of the Civic Alliance [AC] concluded. Before the conclusion of the proceedings they elected the 27 members of the National Steering Council, which, in turn, appointed the members of the Coordinating Committee. During the first meeting of the committee the five vice chairmen of the Civic Alliance were elected as follows: Gabriel Andreescu, Petre Mihai Bacanu, Dorana Cosoveanu, Nicolae Prelipceanu, and Gheorghe Serban, who will occupy in turn the office of chairman of that organization. For the beginning the chairmanship was taken over by Ana Blandiana. [passage omitted]

Karadzic on Chance of Signing Peace Accord

LD1212182393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1759 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Kragujevac, Yugoslavia, Dec 12 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic said on Sunday [12 December] that a peace agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina might be expected to be signed at Geneva on December 21, on condition that the European Union sincerely wants peace. Speaking for Radio Kragujevac, central Serbia, Karadzic said that the European Union might put pressure on the Croats and Moslems, but not any longer on the Serbs who had already made the maximum territorial concessions. He doubted that Bosnian Moslem Leader Alija Izetbegovic would actually stay away from the conference because he did not have the strength to resist pressure from the European Union.

The December 21 round of talks should be attended by the leaders of Bosnia's warring Moslems, Serbs and Croats, as well as the presidents of Serbia and Montenegro (which make up the new Yugoslavia) and of the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia. On December 22, they have been invited to Brussels to meet the foreign ministers of the E.U. nations, whose action plan for Bosnia envisages for a phased suspension of sanctions against Yugoslavia if Bosnian Serbs should make further territorial concessions to the Moslems.

Karadzic said he believed that 'the European Union, knowing the sanctions to be untenable, is trying at the eleventh hour to gain as much as possible for the Moslems and Croats, especially as much Serb territories as possible for the Moslems. We shall go to all the conferences, but the European Union must know that we are a sovereign and independent nation and that we cannot subordinate our interests to anybody's needs,' he added.

Asked to comment on the future of Sarajevo, Karadzic said that the Moslems had shown a readiness in the current talks to solve this question with speed and without making Sarajevo a foreign protectorate. In any case, as a protectorate or not, the Serb part of Sarajevo will always belong to the Serbs, and there is a further demand that some other Serb localities should be added to the Serb city. A protectorate will only delay a solution and we shall make an effort to finally solve the problem, stressed Karadzic.

Srpska Minister: Talks 'Back to Square One'

LD1012172793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1446 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Dec (TANJUG)—Aleksa Buha, minister for foreign affairs of the republic of Srpska told TANJUG today that Owen and Stoltenberg, cochairmen of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, insisted on the European Union's [EU] demand that Muslims should be given an extra 3.3 percent of territory during yesterday's talks with the Serbian side.

"The EU introduced some new premises to the Owen-Stoltenberg plan. It has given up on the initial 30 percent stake and is now demanding that Muslims should be given an extra 3.3 percent of territory, which takes the whole thing back to square one," Buha explained. "The demand for this 3.3 percent is, of course, not addressed to only the Serbian side," he added.

In Buha's words, Serbs maintain that there can be no new quantity without concessions in quality. Under the Owen and Stoltenberg plan, the largest part of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina's riches concentrated in central Bosnia (industry, power sources, infrastructure, facilities, housing) has been assigned to the Muslims. Nevertheless, they rejected this plan three months ago, demanding further concessions. The Serbian and Croatian sides have pointed out that, in so doing, they preclude a final solution in the hope that one day they may get all of Bosnia-Herzegovina, something that is borne out in contradictory statements by Muslim leaders.

"The talks in Belgrade were stalled by this new division, during the course of which an earlier suggestion was also debated regarding access to the sea for the Muslims and Serbs and the division of Sarajevo," Buha said. "These are specific districts in the center and the town's outlying areas that can make up a Serbian Sarajevo."

Buha stressed that "they worked intensely" and that "progress is being made". The talks will resume, as he said, after 20 December. It has not been decided yet whether they will take place in Thessaloniki or in Geneva.

Silajdzic Comments on Peace Efforts

LD1012222893 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpts] John Mills, spokesman of the international conference on former Yugoslavia, today said that the parties to the Bosnian conflict would resume their talks in Geneva on 21 December in the presence of the Bosnian president, the leaders of the Bosnian Serbs and Croats and the presidents of Serbia and Montenegro. [passage omitted]

The Kingdom's television met Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, who talked about the difficulties of daily life in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Commenting on the possibility of the diplomatic efforts producing solutions to end this tragedy, he said:

[Begin recording] [Silajdzic, in Arabic] It is impossible to reach a quick, new solution. Regrettably, as you well know, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in the winter season....[pauses] The human condition is very bad and provision of fuel and foodstuffs is nearly impossible.

[Correspondent Taha] Could the changes which took place recently to the political shape of the ruling system

in Bosnia-Herzegovina be understood to mean that the Muslims abandoned the idea of a unified Bosnia-Herzegovina and the attempts to build their unified country?

[Silajdzic] We have given up the belief that all of us live together in Bosnia-Herzegovina without borders and regions between us. This is history. Regrettably, neither the Serbs nor the Croats want to live with the Muslims. We say that whoever actually wants to live with us and is willing to respect Bosnian law, our history, our religion and our civilization, is most welcome, though the percentage of those willing to agree to this is very small. Of course, there is Bosnia-Herzegovina as a state, but there are also regions or republics for the Serbian and Croatian peoples.

[Taha] As'ad Taha, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Television, Sarajevo. [end recording]

Bosnian Serb Official 'Optimistic' on Talks

LD1112152293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1308 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Jagodina, 11 Dec (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, the president of the republic of Srpska assembly, said today in Jagodina Radio's "The End of the Week" program that he was optimistic about the next round of talks in Geneva on 21 December.

"I believe that the international community will realize that the Serbs and Croats have met all the Muslim demands, even including those regarding territory, with the proviso that the Serbian side can satisfy the Muslims in quality rather quantity terms," Krajisnik said. Krajisnik derives his optimism from his belief that there has been progress in the talks with the Muslim side as far as the partition of Sarajevo is concerned.

"Mr. Silajdzic and I have over the past week agreed that new airports should be built in the new Serbian and Muslim states since the existing one in Sarajevo cannot be used by both sides. It should therefore, be closed down. The Serbs would build their airport in Sokolac and the Muslims in Visoko. Such a decision, Krajisnik believes would make it possible for Sarajevo to be split into two cities.

Krajisnik said he hoped that next week he and Silajdzic would bring the talks on the partition of the city center to an end. Unless we reach agreement by 21 December, Krajisnik added, the Serbian delegation will put forward two proposals. According to the first one, Sarajevo should be set aside in these round of talks while, according to the other proposal, Sarajevo should be placed under the UN's protectorate. In Geneva on 21 December the key point of the peace talks should be demarcation across the entire territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina except Sarajevo, Momcilo Krajisnik said in conclusion in today's interview to Jagodina Radio.

UNPROFOR Reports Shelling of Sarajevo

AU1112171393 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 11 Dec

[By Pierre Lhuillery]

[Text] Sarajevo, Dec 11 (AFP)—Artillery rounds and heavy machinegun fire rocked downtown Sarajevo Saturday while snipers continued their deadly trade, U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Lt Col Bill Aikman said here. Tank, mortar and other artillery rounds rained down on the Bosnian capital, which was hit Friday [10 December] by some 250 incoming shells, said Aikman. At least 21 people were wounded by sniper fire Friday, he added, as the military situation continued its recent deterioration. Bosnian government troops and Bosnian Serb forces exchanged bursts of heavy machinegun fire and small arms fire in the Serb-held Grvbavica district of central Sarajevo, scene of an upswing in fighting in recent days.

Meanwhile Serb forces continued to block aid convoys to besieged Moslem enclaves in eastern Bosnia, in defiance of an agreement signed in Geneva on November 29 by all the warring factions. That sparked Friday's UNPROFOR decision to halt fuel shipments to Serbs, although the office for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said it would ignore the ban. UNPROFOR and the Serbs were to discuss the issue at a meeting Saturday.

Saturday's firing came from heights dominating the western sectors of the city, said Aikman. Districts worst affected by the shelling included Dobrinja and Stup, the city centre and the Bosnian Serb-held district of Grbavica in southern Sarajevo. In response, the Moslem-dominated Bosnian army fired 27 rounds into Bosnian Serb-held districts, notably the Lukavica barracks in southern Sarajevo, Aikman added. A building housing U.N. military observers was hit but no one was injured, he added.

The situation was tense in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly around the central towns of Gornji Vakuf, Vitez and Olovo, the southern town of Mostar and the southeastern Moslem enclave of Gorazde, which has received no aid convoy since November 7.

In Belgrade, the TANJUG news agency said two Serb-majority villages in the Han Pijesak area 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of Sarajevo, had been captured from Serb forces by the Bosnian army in a surprise offensive. However, Serb forces had quickly regrouped and halted the Bosnian advance the agency said, although it was unable to give a casualty toll.

Meanwhile UNHCR spokesman Ray Wilkinson here said Saturday that the agency would continue fuel shipments to the Serbs despite the UNPROFOR boycott. Wilkinson said his agency "will not use fuel, will not use any humanitarian aid as a linkage," adding that fuel "will continue to be distributed to both sides, to the Serb

side and to the government side. Yesterday's announcement (by the UNPROFOR) does not affect UNHCR supplies."

Separately, Canadian Defence Minister David Collenette arrived in Sarajevo Saturday on a two-day visit, and will meet Canadian U.N. troops based at Kiseljak and Visoko, in central Bosnia as well as top U.N. military and civilian officials.

In Zagreb meanwhile, the Bosnian Croat authorities said they had ordered the "unconditional and unilateral dismantling" of all their detention camps by December 17, the Bosnian Croat news agency HABENA reported. Rodoc camp at Mostar, and Gabela, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) further south, "will be closed and the (Moslem) prisoners freed," Vladislav Pogarcic, chief of staff to Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban, told AFP. "We are not waiting for a reciprocal mesure from the Moslems but we hope that this (move) will encourage them to do so," he said. The International Committee of the Red Cross has accused the Croats of holding 3,700 Moslems prisoner, with some 300 Croats detained by the Bosnian government side.

Karadzic Reports Muslim 'Offensive' in Sarajevo

LD1212171293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1420 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Dec (TANJUG)—Dr. Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, today informed the cochairmen of the conference on the former Yugoslavia David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg that "the Muslim Army is conducting an offensive in the city of Sarajevo with the aim of changing the situation on the ground and expelling the Serbs from the city, which is equally Serb [as it is Muslim]." The letter adds that the Muslim Army "is penetrating deep into the Serb territory and killing civilians."

"Muslim soldiers have raided the Serb villages of Potkozlovaca and Ravanjsko in the municipality of Han Pijesak [northeast of Sarajevo], burnt them, killed the civilians, and have captured and taken away some of our people," Karadzic stresses in the letter made available to TANJUG. "We ask you to use your influence over the Muslim side and warn the Muslim leadership that the Serb side will not tolerate such actions and that it will definitely embark on a legitimate reprisal, aiming at military targets, which could bring a complete military defeat and a loss of territory for the Muslims," Karadzic says in conclusion of his letter to Owen and Stoltenberg.

Delic: Sarajevo Should Be 'Liberated'

LD1112205693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Army General Rasim Delic, chief of the general staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, today visited the Association of Northeast Bosnia in Sarajevo organized by citizens from that area. During their one-hour meeting Gen. Delic spoke about the current military situation. He also replied to a number of question raised by members of the association. Coming up is Mladen Bosnjak's report.

[Bosnjak] The offensive against Olovo and Fojnica has already, as we have learned, been crushed. It is also certain that the attacks on Teocak will yield no success. In the Olovo area the Serbian aggressor has lost eight tanks, while a large number of its personnel have died, in particular 18 year-olds sent from the recruiting center at Kalinovik, a fact that triggered heated disputes between war criminals Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, Commander Delic stressed.

In its operations in the central Bosnia area, including attacks on Fojnica, the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Croatian Army have lost 700 combatants, whom Gen. Delic regards as a terrible and futile loss, a tragedy for the Croatian people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, even more damaging is the fact than even in the wake of such senseless casualties, there is no common sense among the people leading the HVO of central Bosnia. The same applies to the entire self-styled leadership of Herceg-Bosna. As for the situation in and around Vitez, Delic pointed out:

[Begin Delic recording] You know, I can tell you that we have held onto Vitez, since the beginning of the siege, for over a month or so, maybe months. However, it is difficult to take any other measures, to use artillery, because of those innocent people there. We will probably not be able to wait too long as the extremists from Vitez are continously destroying Stari Vitez, house by house. [end recording]

[Bosnjak] The military collapse of Vitez is certain. It is being delayed to facilitate efforts to find a satisfying political solution. In this respect one should to some extent view the visit of Ivo Komsic, member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, to Zagreb, and the possible visit by Petar Andjelovic, provincial of Silver Bosnia, to Croatia. The former citizens of northeast Bosnia, now citizens of Sarajevo, were interested in particular in the situation in Posavina and the possibilities of liberating Sarajevo. Gen. Delic said:

[Begin Delic recording] The Sarajevo situation ought to be resolved by coordinating operations from the outside and from within. Sarajevo should not be unblocked, that is to open it up, as some say. Sarajevo ought to be liberated. Then again, whether by political or military means—let us wait and see. If you liberate one part while their guns continue pounding you, you may end up in a situation in which citizens will use this as an escape route. A large number of people have already fled and deserted us. In such a situation we would lose rather than gain. We are talking here about some general values we aspire to. Hence, we have to do something different from what we have been doing thus far. Some conditions for this must be created. [end recording]

[Bosnjak] So much about Sarajevo. Let us hear what Mr. Delic said about Posavina.

[Begin Delic recording] At some point the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army was driven out from this area by the HVO. This area is lost in a political rather than military sense. I believe that a solution for this should be sought not at the level of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, but at a level of two states. We know that a large number of citizens of Croatian nationality have fled this area and have gone to Croatia, thus failing to join the struggle for this area. The Bosnia-Herzegovina Army's power is dented if it does not share the same interests as the Croatian people, those Croats who have gone to Croatia, if they are not organized in the struggle for this area.

Unfortunately, as far as the units in these areas are concerned, for instance the 107th Gradacac Brigade, the 108th Brcko Brigade, you know that these units have been decimated, they have suffered the heaviest losses as they wage battles on a daily basis. It is not fair to expect these units to singularly carry out such an operation. I would like to ask all those who have any influence—I know that Kovacevic is in Zagreb; how many people have you mobilized? To what extent are they willing to come back? [passage omitted]

Serbian, Croatian Forces Launch Attack on Olovo

LD1112175293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] The offensive by the combined [Serbian and Croatian] aggressor on Olovo has continued with fierce shelling of the first defense lines and tank and infantry attacks. Velid Djindo reports:

[Djindo] The enemy's military helicopters, which for days have been in action all along the lines of the battlefield, were joined today by planes which were in action for several hours in these areas. Throughout the morning NATO and aggressor planes were zooming overhead. In conjunction with air attacks, the combined enemy has been using long-range artillery to constantly shell the first defense lines of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, large areas of the town, and two nearby villages. Powerful infantry forces of the occupier have been launching ferocious attacks all along the front.

However terrible the picture of war in Olovo on this 11th day of December, the heroic defenders of the town are not giving up their magnificent struggle. At this moment all defense lines and all approaches to the town of heroes are under Bosnia-Herzegovina Army control.

Army Advances in Northeast; 50 Serbs Killed

LD1212184193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Teocak defenders achieved their greatest success since the beginning of the offensive against this part of our country.

[Correspondent] Initially the enemy attempted an infantry attack toward Laze from the direction of Lokanj. Our soldiers, the Teocak lions, headed by commander [name indistinct], launched a counterattack destroying everything they came upon. The historic battle lasted five hours and chetnik territory was threatened. More than 50 chetniks were killed and 23 captured. Large quantities of weapons and ammunition were captured. The [Muslim] defense lines were pushed forward three kilometers toward Lokanj. Our soldiers have seized full control of Visoka Glavica which is a strategic point. [passage omitted]

Army 'Massacre' Reported

LD1112161793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Han Pijesak, 11 Dec (TANJUG)—Two persons were killed and several buildings set ablaze in the villages of Potkozlovaca and Ravanjsko in an attack by Muslim forces on targets in the Han Pijesak municipality, in the border area toward Vlasenica. The information service of the republic of Srpska army [VRS] general staff announced that the Muslim Army carried out a massacre of civilians, took elderly men, women, and children hostage, looted the villages, and set residential and other houses ablaze, leaving devastation in its trail. The attack was sudden and ferocious but the locals of the Han Pijesak municipality put up strong resistance and a number of them were successfully evacuated. In a swift action the VRS checked the further advance of Muslim forces, and all the Muslim combatants who remained blocked in the Serbian villages they had attacked have been encircled. [passage omitted]

Casualties Reported in Mostar Area Fighting

LD1212151593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpt] The situation in Mostar has become quieter, with only sporadic exchanges of small-arms fire, following this morning's attack with snipers and antiaircraft guns on buildings in the western part of Mostar and approaches to the town. This is Zdenko Vranjes reporting for Croatian radio.

The political department of the Herceg-Bosna Defense Ministry has announced that two civilians and one Croat Defense Council [HVO] soldier were lightly injured last night when Muslim forces opened fire in the streets of western Mostar and northern suburbs. The same source has confirmed that a Muslim Army infantry attack was repelled and that the attackers suffered great losses. One HVO member was killed and another two were wounded. [passage omitted]

Clashes Between Izetbegovic, Abdic Forces

LD1212132193 TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1210 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Petrovac, 12 Dec (TANJUG)—Inter-Muslim clashes between the supporters of Fikret Abdic and

forces loyal to Alija Izetbegovic continued today on almost all fronts, local Muslim information media in the Cazin Krajina report. According to the Muslim radio in Bihac, a general alert has been in effect in Cazin for three days now. The same source adds that fierce fighting is going on in the immediate vicinity of Cazin and on the front lines around Sturlic, Trzac, and Rasjela.

This news is confirmed by ZBIA, the western Bosnia news agency, and the Velkaton radio in Velika Kladusa, which add that members of the 5th Corps, strengthened by foreign mercenaries, mujahidin, and Muslims who have arrived from Western European countries, and using all kinds of arms and weaponry, are attempting to break through the front near Razino Brdo Skokovi and Johovica in order to reach Velika Kladusa. They are not succeeding in this because the forces of the Kladusa "boss" "are ready for any surprises or cunning tricks unleashed by Dudakovic" [5th Corps commander].

ZBIA adds that 5th Corps units have today, too, suffered great losses in terms of equipment and personnel and that about 30 of Izetbegovic's fighters have gone over to the side of the autonomous province of western Bosnia. Muslim information media assert that clashes are continuing today in Bihac between supporters of Alija Izetbegovic and the Croatian Defense Council. The fiercest fighting is going on in the villages of Kralje and Vrkasic, and there are dead and wounded on both sides.

Local Croats Side With Abdic

LD1112234693 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 2230 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Western Bosnia was the site of the fiercest fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina today. The clashes between members of the 5th Corps of the so-called Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the liberation army of the autonomous province of western Bosnia have been resumed with undiminished intensity. Muslim radio Velikaton in Velika Kladusa reports that elite units of the 5th Corps, consisting of Mojahedin and soldiers from Sandzak, have been launching fierce attacks on defense lines of the APZB liberation army over the last 24 hours. In the attacks, 23 soldiers of [Bosnian President Alija] Izetbegovic's army were wounded and six captured.

According to Radio Velikaton and the Western Bosnian News Agency, clashes between the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] and units of the Muslim army's 5th Corps have resumed in the Kralj and Vrkasici areas, in the Croat populated part of the Bihac region. Three of Izetbegovic's soldiers were killed and seven wounded in these clashes.

TANJUG: Zenica Muslims Seeking Autonomy

LD1012230693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2215 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Banja Luka, December 10 (TANJUG)—Moslems in Zenica want autonomy like the one already proclaimed by Moslems in western Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Bosnian Serb military sources set out. The Moslems of Zenica, an industrial city in central Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to these sources, have had enough of bloodshed in the name of some religious state of the Moslem fundamentalist leader Alija Izetbegovic.

The champion of creating autonomy for the Zenica region was allegedly Moslem forces' commander in Zavidovici Refik Lendo, a former officer of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), who enjoys the support of workers and farmers and is opposed by the hard-liner Moslem extremists and mujahedin, the same sources said. Zavidovici is a town some twenty kilometers from Zenica. According to these sources, the Moslems of Maglaj, northern Bosnia, were also turning their back on Izetbegovic.

After the autonomous province of western Bosnia (APWB) was proclaimed at a popular referendum last September, and after the opposition from APWb leader Fikret Abdic to Izetbegovic's policy of war and urgings for some sort of co-existence with the Serbs Moslems and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the forces loyal to the Sarajevo government launched armed attacks on those Moslems who thought different from Izetbegovic. So far there were several hundred killed and wounded on both sides in inter-Moslem fighting.

The Bosnian Serb military sources reported Friday also escalation of inter-Moslem fighting in Travnik and Novi Travnik areas, central Bosnia. Izetbegovic's government-controlled media were trying to deny claims of clashes between the regime's formations and the foreign Moslem mercenaries.

UN Spokesman: Serbs Fired on Two Aid Convoys

AU1312104493 Paris AFP in English 0040 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, Dec 13 (AFP)—Bosnian Serb gunners opened fire Sunday on two United Nations convoys near the northeast Bosnian town of Tuzla, the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) announced here. An UNPROFOR communique said Scandinavian and Canadian units sustained mortar and tank fire that "clearly came from Serb positions."

A Bosnian Serb military statement, carried in Belgrade by the TANJUG news agency, meanwhile spoke of heavy fighting northwest of Sarajevo Sunday. It said mainly Moslem Bosnian government troops had launched their "most violent offensive for several months" against Serb positions. UN officials said Serb fire in the Sapna region near Tuzla had also hit a Scandinavian observation post. The attacks caused no casualties but damaged both the observation post and a Scandinavian armored vehicle, according to UNPROFOR. It said that after negotiations with Bosnian Serbs, the Canadian battalion continued

on to the Moslem enclave of Srebrenica, while the Scandinavian unit returned to Tuzla.

The UNPROFOR statement charged that Bosnian Serb forces "continued to block UN humanitarian aid convoys to starving (Moslem dominated) Bosnian enclaves on Saturday, again bringing into question the Serbs' commitment to the agreement (on free circulation for aid convoys) they signed in Geneva."

The Bosnian Serb military communique said Moslem forces, apparently deployed near the Kosovo Hospital [as received] in Sarajevo, attacked Serb positions with mortars and automatic weapons. [passage omitted]

UN Suspends Fuel for Serbs

AU1012174793 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 10 Dec 93

[by Pierre Lhuillery]

[Text] Sarajevo, Dec 10 (AFP)—The UN said Friday [10 December] it had suspended fuel shipments to Bosnian Serbs for refusing free passage to aid convoys, as Bosnia's three warring parties agreed to meet again for peace talks in Geneva on December 21. UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Bill Aikman said here that the UN force had stopped delivering fuel to Serb-held areas of Bosnia while the Serbs continued to block aid convoys from reaching Moslem zones in defiance of an agreement signed in Geneva on November 29 by all the warring factions. "We have been stalled for one week," Aikman said referring notably to the case of Gorazde, in the east of the country, where a Moslem enclave has been unable to get supplies since early November. "Games are being played, and they are being played by the Bosnian Serb Army and by Serbs in Yugoslavia," he said. For this reason "we are stopping fuel deliveries until this situation is resolved," the lieutenant-colonel added.

In Geneva, John Mills, spokesman for the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, announced that leaders of Bosnia's Moslem, Serb and Croat factions, along with the presidents of neighbouring Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia had agreed to return for talks later this month. The warring parties, which met in Geneva on November 29 at the behest of the European Community's 12 foreign ministers, had agreed to free passage for humanitarian convoys and had given UNPROFOR a green light to use force if need be to get convoys through. But Aikman said Friday that the use of force was not being considered for the time being. "We are here to defend the convoys and to defend ourselves, were are not going to go through shooting," he said.

Meanwhile, one convoy destined for the Moslem-held pocket of Tesanj, in the north of the country, did get through on Friday, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] announced here. Eight trucks were allowed through Croat lines with 66 tonnes of aid, including food and wood-burning stoves, the first convoy to get through since October 22. Some 40 trucks left Zagreb at the same time, carrying humanitarian aid for the Croat-held town of Nova Bila, in central Bosnia, Croatian radio announced. The convoy notably aims to supply a makeshift hospital with some 100 patients set up in a Franciscan convent and blockaded by Moslem forces. Agreement on the dispatch of the Nova Bila convoy appeared to be linked to the dispatch of convoys to Tesanj, according to observers.

Meanwhile, the head of the United Nations Children's Fund in Geneva, James Grant, strongly condemned the killing of the head doctor at the UNICEF health centre in mortar attacks Thursday, the same time as a UNICEF truck laden with food for children came under sniper fire. Dr. Galib Pleho was one of 11 reported killed Thursday by snipers and mortar bombs, which continued to plague the city Friday. Witnesses said three shells fell in western Sarajevo, where four people had been killed the day before while shopping at a local market. Twenty-one people were wounded Friday.

Speaking in Geneva Friday, UNHCR representative Christiane Bertheaume also accused the Bosnian Serbs of holding up aid convoys. She said that 80 tonnes of fuel oil were still being prevented from reaching Sarajevo from Belgrade, with the Serbs demanding half of it. "This is against all agreements," Bertheaume stressed.

Aid Convoy Abandons Attempt To Reach Gorazde

AU1112203093 Paris AFP in English 2002 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Dec 11 (AFP)—A relief convoy carrying urgently needed aid supplies Saturday gave up attempts to reach to the beleagured Moslem enclave of Gorazde after facing persistent obstruction by Bosnian Serbs, a U.N. official said. The Russian-Swedish convoy returned to Belgrade after being held up for days by Serbs in flagrant breach of last month's Geneva accord under which all three warring parties guaranteed free passage of relief convoys, said Ray Wilkinson, spokesman here for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. No aid supplies have reached the Moslem-held enclave southeast of Sarajevo, which desperately needs food and winter equipment to help beat the bitter Bosnian cold, since November 7.

Meanwhile fierce fighting continued around the Han Pijesak area, 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of Sarajevo, after the Moslem-dominated Bosnian army seized control of two Serb-majority villages, the Belgrade-based TANJUG news agency reported. The Serb general staff said the Bosnian army had "massacred" some of the residents, looting their homes before torching them. Two Serb soldiers had died in the surprise assault, the agency added.

In Sarajevo, Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Britain's opposition Liberal Democrats, arrived for a six-day visit saying he found it "shameful that the West has not done more to create peace," in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "On my

previous visits to Sarajevo and Bosnia-Herzegovina I have been saying that unless the West is prepared to act more decisively, more firmly, including military intervention, the situation will get steadily worse. These predictions I made... proved to be tragically true," he added.

General Jean Cot, commander of U.N. forces in the former Yugoslavia, had protested to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic over a series of deliberate attacks by his forces on aid convoys and U.N. observation posts, said an official statement released in Zagreb. Resupply convoys for Canadian and Scandanavian U.N. troops were targetted by tank and mortar fire near Saraci, between the northeastern towns of Tuzla and Zvornik around 9:00 a.m. (0800 GMT) Saturday, the U.N. officials said. Serb forces again shelled the convoys two hours later, the statement added. Cot's letter called on Karadzic to "intervene personally and immediately to stop these deliberate attacks and the harassment of U.N. personnel by the Bosnian Serb army."

A copy of the letter has been sent to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, whose country is seen as the Bosnian Serbs' main sponsor, and U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. Cot has also written to the U.N. chief to protest the "systematic obstruction of U.N. operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serb forces," the statement added.

Humanitarian Aid Continues To Reach Enclaves

LD1012231693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2226 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, December 10 (TANJUG)—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Friday [10 December] sent humanitarian aid consisting of 73 tonnes of flour to Moslem-controlled parts of Sarajevo and 45 tonnes of flour, clothing, candles and nails, and components for the assembly of houses to the Moslem enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina through the territory of the Bosnian Serb Republic.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also sent via the Bosnian Serb Republic 34 tonnes of food, stoves and large quantities of motor oil and liquid fuel to the Moslem enlave of Tuzla in central Bosnia-Herzegovina on Thursday.

As during the past weeks, the passage of all humanitarian convoys via the Bosnian Serb Republic was unhindered and safe, since Serbs respect the agreement signed in Geneva on November 29 between the three warring sides on the free passage of convoys, Bosnian Serb military sources said.

UNPROFOR representative in Sarajevo Bill Eickman said on Thursday that the UNPROFOR had suspended shipments of gasoline to Bosnian Serb controlled regions, claiming that Serbs were making it difficult for convoys to move towards the Moslem enclaves of Gorazde and Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia, the French news agency AFP reported from Sarajevo on Thursday.

Bosnian Serb military sources warned on Thursday that members of the UNPROFOR were supplying Moslem forces in Tuzla with weaponry, ammunition and explosives, which was confirmed by Tuzla citizens who had managed to cross over into Bosnian Serb territory. The French press this autumn carried reports that members of the UNPROFOR were providing weapons to Bosnian Moslems, which led to the opening of an investigation, but no results have been made public since. During examinations of humanitarian convoys for Moslems, the Bosnian Serb Army on several occasions discovered weapons and ammunition concealed in the lorries.

Croats To Release Prisoners From Centers

LD1012173393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpts] There has been no heavy fighting in Herceg-Bosna today. [passage omitted]

The government of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna discussed at its session today a report by the commission for monitoring of the living conditions in detention centers for POW's and civilian prisoners.

The statement issued after the session says that people over a certain age will be released, except for those who are under criminal investigation or have been detained for security reasons. All people found to be of poor health by a commission of physicians are also to be released.

The center in Gabela is be turned into a transit center, where detainees will, after obtaining all necessary documents, be allowed to leave for third countries, the government's statement says. International organizations—the UNHCR and the Red Cross—will be asked to take over control of the center.

80-Percent Turnout Reported in RSK Elections

LD1312155593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1508 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Knin, December 13 (TANJUG)—According to incomplete results, eighty percent of the 320,000 registered voters in the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) went to the polls on Sunday [12 December] to elect new parliament and president, the republican election commission said on Monday. According to available reports, Milan Babic leads in the race for presidentship. Milan Martic won somewhat less votes while the other five presidential candidates, including hitherto President Goran Hadzic, received only a very small number of votes.

Candidates nominated by independent groups of citizens, the Serb Democratic Party of All Serb Lands and the Serb Democratic Party of Krajina won the largest number of votes in six of a total of 28 election districts in parliamentary elections, show unofficial reports. Officials of the republican election commission Marijana Puvaca and Risto Matkovic said the elections had passed in peaceful atmosphere and without any incidents which might influence their regularity. The official results will be announced on Tuesday.

The RSK was proclaimed late in 1991 in areas within the borders of the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia in which Serbs make up the majority population in response to Croatia's violent secession from the former Yugoslav Federation and the downgrading of their status of a constituent people to that of an ethnic minority. In March last year, the RSK territory was placed under the protection of the United Nations.

Babic Leads in Six Areas

AU1312154593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Report by Prvoslav Vukovic from Knin]

[Excerpt] Journalists waiting in the republican electoral commission have been given unofficial and incomplete results of the first multi-party presidential and assembly elections held yesterday. The turnout was 80 percent. There are 317,000 registered voters.

The commission announced the results for only six out of a total of 28 constituencies. These constituencies were won convincingly by presidential candidate Milan Babic. These constituencies are: Drnis, Grubisno Polje, Okucani, Petrinja, Daruvar, and (?Pakrac).

As regards the elections of candidates for deputies in the republican parliament, independent candidates secured three seats, the Serbian Democratic Party of Krajina and the Serbian Democratic Party of the Serbian Lands [Srpska Demokratska Stranka Srpskih emalja] won two seats each.

Results are arriving very slowly in the republican electoral commission. Poor communications cannot be an excuse for all of them. How can one explain that the results for the Knin commune have not arrived yet? The next results will be announced at 1600. [passage omitted]

Slavonia Results Announced

AU1312153193 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Report by Miladin Manoojlovic]

[Text] According to the unofficial results in Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem, out of all candidates for president of the republic of Serbian Krajina, Milan Babic has won the most votes. He is followed by Milan Martic, Rade Leskovac, and Goran Hadzic.

Milan Babic won in four out of five constituencies: Beli Manastir in Baranja, Tenja, Dalj, and Mirkovci. Milan Martic won more votes only in Vukovar. Taking this region as a whole, Milan Babic has won 23,658 votes, Milan Martic 19,850, Rade Leskovac 13,959, and Goran Hadzic 9,219 votes.

Let us recall that the citizens of the republic of Serbian Krajina were also electing deputies for the multiparty parliament. At present we have results only for Beli Manastir. Out of eight candidates for deputies to the assembly from this region, seven are from the Serbian Radical Party and one is an independent. We will announce more results in our next newscasts.

Candidates Express Confidence in Krajina Vote

AU1212153693 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Report by Spomenka Deretic from Knin]

[Excerpts] [Deretic] Since 0700 this morning, when the polling stations were opened, the citizens of Knin—in their Sunday best, enthusiastic, and most with children in tow—have been coming out to carry out their citizens' duty.

According to the information of the Krajina elections commission, due to the poor telephone lines, information from only six constituent units has so far been received. By 1100, 21.5 percent of the voters have cast their votes in Vojnic, 45 percent in Kostajnica, 20 percent in Obrovac, 20 percent in Okucani, 6 percent in Petrinja, and 52 percent in (?Caprak). Unfortunately there is no information as to the percentage of votes cast in Knin but, as we could see, the turnout is very good. For example, at the polling station for the deputy seat in the Serb commune of Zadar, all the refugees that are not on the front lines have come back to vote. [passage omitted]

Finally, this is what we have been told at the polling station by Milan Martic, candidate for president of the republic of Serbian Krajina; Djordje Bjegovic, prime

minister of the republic of Serbian Krajina; and Dr. Milan Babic, another candidate for president from Knin.

[Martic] This today is certainly an historic event for the people of the republic of Serbian Krajina. It is historic for several reasons, depending on the point of view, but it is certainly so important that it is one of the most important events that we have so far had in our history. [sentence as heard] It is important to show the whole world that we are a country of normal people, who can conduct elections even in these circumstances, and that these elections can be conducted in a democratic way. The people can vote for their best representatives.

[Bjegovic] I got up early in order to once again tell everyone, including myself, that the time has come for the best people to be elected through democratic elections. I am happy that the entire business has been completed regularly and correctly. I think that we have all shown respect for one another, and I would like it to remain like that after the elections. Only through work, through good organization and efficiency can we defeat our enemies, not only those we are fighting against, but the entire world. We can also overcome ourselves through better work, better production, and I believe that all the elected people will do just that. Things will be better for us.

[Babic] The sovereign will of the Serbian people in Krajina has been expressed as state determination. [sentence as heard] By constituting the state bodies today in a democratic way, the three-year-long process of constituting the state of the republic of Serbian Krajina will have been completed. The state of the republic of Serbian Krajina constituted in such a democratic way has a future and it will win international recognition.

Dalmatian City Comes Under 'Surprise' Attack

LD1312111093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Serbian terrorists launched a surprise artillery attack on Biograd this morning. They fired about 15 shells at the city center. The attack, launched at about 0930, lasted 40 minutes and caused an enormous amount of material damage. According to Biograd's hospital, there were no casualties.

Prior to their attack on Biograd the chetniks opened fire on the city's surrounding. Biograders are in their shelters while the population of Zadar and its surrounding area have been told to exercise extreme caution.

Croatian Army Attacks Benkovac Area

LD1212150293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1359 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, December 12 (TANJUG)—The Army of the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia continued over the past 24 hours heavy attacks in the area of Benkovac, the southern part of the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK), the RSK army command said. The RSK was proclaimed in late 1991 in areas within the Croatian borders where Serbs make up the majority population in response to Croatia's violent secession from the former Yugoslav Federation. In March 1992, the RSK territory was placed under the protection of the United Nations and around 14,000 U.N. peacekeepers were deployed.

The RSK is on Sunday holding its first multi-party general elections, against which the Croatian authorities have protested to the U.N. As quoted by the RSK news agency ISKRA on Sunday, the Croatian artillery fired 70 mortar and howitzer shells on the area of Smilcic, Zemunik Gornji, Biljane Gornje, Biljane Donje and other settlements in the south of the RSK. No casualties were reported but the damage to civilian facilities is great, the RSK army command said. Croatian forces made infantry provocations in the areas of Vrlika and Drnis, also in the south.

In the region of Lika in the north, Croatian forces violated the ceasefire in the wider area of Gracac and Plaski by firing from small arms and anti-aircraft guns. In the neighbouring Banija region, Croatian forces opened fire from small arms on the area of Petrinja while a mortar shell fell in the region of Glina. Provocations were also reported in eastern Slavonia (the east of the RSK) but the situation was quiet in the regions of Kordun and western Slavonia.

Belgrade Radio Report

AU1312113593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] At 0800 this morning, using all available artillery pieces and weapons, the ustasha army commenced a combined infantry-artillery assault from the direction of (Priseg) and Skrabinja toward villages south of Benkovac. The broader vicinity of Benkovac was also threatened. The Serbian army of Krajina managed to stop this attack at about 1030. By the way, ustashas set off from Pakostane and Posedarje. The front line has not been moved.

The Serbian army has filed a protest with UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Forces].

Granic Says Military Intervention 'Ruled Out'

LD1212003693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2300 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Military intervention in the former Yugoslavia has been ruled out and it will not be easy to find a way out of the current situation because the greater Serbian idea is still alive, Mate Granic, the Croatian deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Croatian council of the European Movement said in Zagreb today at the fourth annual session of the movement's council.

The strategic goal of the Croatian state is to establish relations with the European Union and that is why Croatia will accept all European standards, Granic said,

stressing that he was certain that the Croatian Council of the European Movement could help in achieving this. Zvonimir Baletic was elected the new chairman of the council until the next electoral assembly.

Krajina Refuses Talks Without Army Withdrawal

LD1112164193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1457 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Jagodina, 11 Dec (TANJUG)—Slobodan Jarcevic, minister for foreign affairs of the republic of Serb Krajina, today said there would be no talks with the Republic of Croatia about restoring communications and economic and trade links unless the Croatian Army withdraws from the occupied territories of the republic of Serb Krajina, taken in the wake of its aggression of 22 January and 9 September.

Jarcevic said in "The End of the Week" program broadcast by Jagodina Radio: "In the course of negotiations held in Belgrade between 22 and 28 November—some call them secret talks—we demanded from the Croatian representatives that their Army withdraw 2 kms from Velebit, Smokovic, Kasic, and Islam Grcki, and that they return all the property stolen, so that we can talk about other contested issues on another occasion. They told us that under no circumstances would their Army and police leave an area under their occupation."

By replying in this manner the Croatian side demonstrates that it does not favor a final peace, Jarcevic says, and stressed that it is regrettable that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has obviously been misinformed and told that there was no succees at the negotiations, since the Serbian side did not accept them due to its elections.

RSK's Jarcevic Denies Talks With Croatia

LD1012225693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2115 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, December 10 (TANJUG)—Foreign minister of the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] Slobodan Jarcevic on Friday [10 December] denied that secret talks had been held with representatives of the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia "somewhere near Belgrade" early this week. In an interview to TANJUG, Jarcevic said that such talks had been held with representatives from Croatia in Belgrade from November 22-28 this year.

During the talks, the Croatian side rejected the Krajina demand that the Croatian Army in the first phase withdraw from Mt. Velebit and leave the Serb villages of Smokovic, Kasic and Islam Grcki in the Adriatic hinterland and move two kilometers back from the line it had seized in other parts of Krajina, and that the other occupied parts of Krajina be discussed at a later date, Jarcevic said.

The republic of Serb Krajina was formed in 1991 by Serbs in territories of Croatia where they are the majority population in opposition against the forcible secession of that republic from the former Yugoslavia and the attempt to reduce the Serb people to a national minority. Krajina has been a United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) since the spring of 1992, but Croatia attacked the region on three occasions since that time—in June 1992, and in January and September 1993—killing Serb civilians and plundering, burning and razing Serb villages. The Croatian Army did not withdraw from the occupied territories even after a resolution to this effect adopted by the U.N. Security Council.

Jarcevic did not reject the possibility that talks continue behind closed doors, because the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) and the co-chairmen of the international conference on former Yugoslavia insist on this, hoping that it will facilitate positive results, Jarcevic said. "Talks are constantly underway with Croatian representatives and at several levels," Jarcevic said, adding that "even local Krajina commanders are holding negotiations in an attempt to end the horrors of the war. We agreed even to hold secret negotiations, but even these did not yield any results," Jarcevic said.

Deputies of the conference co-chairmen ambassadors Geerd Ahrens and Knut Vollebaek were able to see for themselves that the Croats are the ones who are obstructing the talks, Jarcevic said. And yet, U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali informed the Security Council that the peace agreement had not been accepted since the Serb side allegedly could not sign it because of the forthcoming parliamentary and presidential elections in Krajina, Jarcevic said.

Asked to comment a possible new meeting on the crisis in former Yugoslavia, without Krajina representatives, Jarcevic underscored that "no decision adopted without Krajina representatives can be implemented," since "the decision about the destiny of the republic of Serb Krajina will be adopted by its people and their representatives."

Envoy to UN 'Admitted' Troops in Bosnia

LD1012234993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2317 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] New York, December 10 (TANJUG)—Croatian Ambassador to the United Nations Mario Nobilo on Friday [10 December] admitted that forces of his republic were fighting in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, but did not specify their numbers. [words indistinct] partly correct that our troops are in Bosnia, north of Dubrovnik and in the north of that republic, Nobilo told a press conference at the U.N. headquarters, saying that this was for strategic reasons—to prevent Bosnian Moslems from forcing their way to the Adriatic coast. The Croatian Army would be fully engaged to prevent this, he said. The Bosnian Serb command

warned already last year that tens of thousands of regular Croatian troops were fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Bosnian Moslems have also warned against this in the recent months after their alliance with Bosnian Croats broke up.

The Bosnian Moslem leadership, which alleges that Croatian troops are taking part in the fighting against the Moslem army in the region of the Herzegovina town of Mostar and in central Bosnia-Herzegovina, on several occasions demanded that the U.N. impose sanctions against Croatia because of its involvement in the Bosnian war.

The U.N. Security Council imposed severe sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in May 1992 because of their alleged involvement in the war of Moslems, Serbs and Croats in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, and even tightened them on two subsequent occasions.

Nobilo admitted that there had been mercenaries in the Croatian Army at the beginning of the war, but said that this was no longer necessary, although some were still present. There are mercenaries on the Moslem side, people from Islamic countries, he said, adding that these mercenaries were merciless against the Croat and Serb populations. Several thousand mujaheddin from Islamic countries are fighting on the side of Bosnian Moslems which has also been reported by foreign media. Mercenaries from Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are the most numerous among them.

Federal

Ministry Warns Albania on 'Territorial Claims'

LD1012180693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1643 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Nov (TANJUG)—The Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] warned today about open territorial claims to the FRY made by Albanian President Sali Berisha. The ministry's statement says:

"The Federal Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia warns with profound concern about the fresh wave of militant and warmongering statements coming from Tirana lately. Speaking at the conference of the Democratic Party of Albania in line with his ongoing anti-Yugoslav activities and persistent slanderous statements, Albanian President Sali Berisha has again called on separatist forces in Kosovo and Metohija to join the struggle for the realization of nationalist tendencies embodied in a 'Greater Albania' which are detrimental to the unity and territorial integrity of Serbia and Yugoslavia.

Openly laying territorial claims to the FRY and other Balkan countries with an Albanian national minority, President Berisha threatened to use all means at his disposal to prevent the 'fragmentation of Albanian national territories' which, as is well known, refers to all territories populated by Albanians.

By making up stories about an alleged Serbian threat, President Berisha is dramatically scaring the Albanian and European public with the danger of a new Balkan war. By publicly and officially invoking a conflict in Kosovo and Metohija and promising Albania's intervention in such a case, the Albanian president is encouraging separatists and extremists among the Albanian national minority to perform irresponsible and illegal activities. Albania is therefore grossly and brazenly violating its obligations towards neighboring countries stemming from its membership in the international community, which must not go unanswered by that community.

The demands that Kosovo and Metohija be placed under the UN protectorate and under NATO military protection reveal the true nature of Albanian policy toward Yugoslavia. Such a policy—for which President Berisha is seeking military and political support from the international community—is the only real source of danger for stabilization and of a fresh conflict in the Balkans.

The Albanian president's insistence on lifting the arms embargo imposed against the Muslims in Bosnia and his stand against the lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia are provocatively at odds with the efforts and goals of the Geneva conference, fully exposing Albania's increasingly ruthless policy of 'fishing in muddy waters' as far as the Yugoslav crisis is concerned.

President Berisha's speech indicates that Albania sees its chance to realize its goal—the unification of all Albanians—in the continuation of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its extention to the southern part of the Balkan peninsula. Taking all this into account, Albania's concern for peace—voiced over and over again—appears extremely hypocritical and unconvincing.

The Yugoslav side once again appeals to President Berisha and the Albanian Government that instead of carrying on with its cruel anti-Serbian propaganda and political campaign, it should accept the extended hand of good-neighborly relations and cooperation. The Albanian side would contribute to efforts to resolve the existing problems and consolidate peace and stability in this part of the Balkans if it went back to the policy of common sense and the realistic development of good-neighborly relations.

The Yugoslav side takes this opportunity to once again express readiness for the settlement of all open issues concerning bilateral relations in a peaceful way and through political means. This, and not the exacerbation of relations and the confrontation offered by the Albanian president, is the only rational and acceptable way to overcome the present tension in mutual relations and achieve greater trust, stability, and more developed cooperation in this region."

Envoy to UN Criticizes Russian Gas Sanctions

LD1012193293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1808 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 10 Dec (TANJUG)—The UN Sanctions Committee's decision to postpone once again the imports of Russian gas into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is "yet another proof of a policy of genocide being conducted against the Serbian and Montenegrin people", Ambassador Branko Brankovic, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department for the United Nations and international organizations, said today.

In Radio Belgrade's "One More Argument" program, Brankovic stressed that yesterday's decision by the UN Sanctions Committee not to allow gas imports for heating of refugee accommodation, schools, and hospitals in the FRY was regrettable. It is unbelievable that countries like Britain and the United States, the countries which in many respects care about humanitarian issues, are in this case behaving "so utterly inhumanely". Brankovic said that "constantly postponing and denying gas supply to the FRY amounts to a war crime" and noted that the International War Tribunal "should deal with those who make such decisions". [passage omitted]

Official Denounces French-German Plan for B-H

LD1012210793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1632 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Jagodina, Dec 10 (TANJUG)—Deputy Yugoslav Prime Minister Zeljko Simic has assessed as negative the German-French initiative for the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK), and said it was "solely in Germany's interest."

Simic said at a panel organized by the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia in Jagodina on Thursday evening that the initiative was in fact a German initiative which was not well-intentioned and had only been joined by France.

At the proposal of Bonn and Paris, the European Union (E.U.) has called for a progressive suspension of the U.N. sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on condition a peace agreement for Bosnia-Herzegovina is reached on the basis of additional territorial concessions by the Bosnian Serbs to the Bosnian Muslims and on condition a "modus vivendi" is found for the RSK.

The RSK has been created out of the predominantly Serb populated parts of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia in response to Croatia's forcible secession and the limitation of the Serb population's civil and national rights by Croatian authorities. Although the RSK was proclaimed a U.N. Protected Area (UNPA) in spring last year, Croatia has carried out aggression on it three times since, in an attempt to impose its authority there. Croatia continues to insist that the RSK is part of its territory and to seek outside help with a view to reintegrating the RSK into its territory. However, the RSK population insists that it can only establish relations with Croatia as a neighbouring state.

"We do not view the magic word (modus vivendi) as a reality. Moreover, it is not accidental that the German initiative was raised at a time of fierce clashes between Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, clashes in which Croats have sustained heavy losses and as result of which they could lose half of the so-called Herzeg-Bosna (the state of Bosnian Croats)," Simic said, and reiterated that "the German initiative has no good intentions."

IMF Extends Deadline for FRY Membership

LD1012214693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1943 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, December 10 (TANJUG)—The board of executive directors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) prolonged Friday until June 14, 1994, the deadline for regulating the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's (F.R.Y.) membership in this international financial organization, said vice-governor of the National Bank of Yugoslavia Zarko Trbojevic. Such a decision was to be expected, said Trbojevic, since the F.R.Y. was doing all it could for the crisis in the former Yugoslavia to be resolved as soon as possible and had offered convincing evidence that the F.R.Y. was not behind the conflicts in any one of the breakaway members of the former Yugoslav Federation.

The F.R.Y. was striving, within the limits of its abilities, to meet all its obligations towards the IMF and other international financial organizations, said Trbojevic. He added that the F.R.Y. will by June 14 , 1994, undertake fresh steps aimed at asserting it had a place as member of this international financial organization.

Lilic Tells Rally Serbs Can Endure Sanctions

AU1112155593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Report by Zivko Perisic on address by FRY President Zoran Lilic to rally in Gornji Milanovac on 11 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Lilic] In this century alone, the Serbian people—apart from the struggle for freedom in the two world wars—is endangered for the third time now. Genocide is being committed against the Serbs by those nations with whom they recently lived in a common state and whom they helped to become nations.

We have favored agreement and a peaceful solution from the first secessionist step in the former common state. We were still committed to such a policy even when armed clashes broke out. We have been consistent in our commitment to peace, and we have managed to create the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia], the only serious state on the territory of the former SFRY [Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia]. We have managed to preserve peace on its territory, to preserve the younger generation, to save the people from suffering, and the country from destruction, and at the same time give support and help to the Serbian people in the Serb republic and the republic of Serbian Krajina to achieve their legitimate national rights, in the belief that this is also in our national interest and the only possible way. We have to continue along this path until the final aim is reached. We have been very persistent, principled, and active about having all the disputed issues in the relations among the nations and the seceded republics of the former Yugoslavia solved primarily through negotiations and in a peaceful way. With great consistency and by launching many peace initiatives, we have been committed to a quick halt to the clashes in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A war is being waged outside our borders against the Serbian people. The international community has imposed a blockade against the FRY in order to exhaust the people and break their will to decide on their fate by themselves. Nobody can deny us the right to decide on our own fate. I am convinced that we will endure, and that an end can be seen to the sanctions, which are formally unjustified and have failed to achieve the aim intended by their initiators. I am also convinced that the Serbian people, in parts where war is being waged against them, will succeed in defending their freedom, their territorial integrity, and their independence. After all, that has been the case throughout their history. Today's commemoration of two significant dates in our recent

history convinces us that they will succeed. People who have such predecessors—to whom we today pay our respects—can do nothing else but continue the tradition of our predecessors [words indistinct] because of their great deeds, for the new generations, for the future of Serbia, for Serbia, and for the FRY. [passage omitted]

Army Chief: Serbs in Croatia, Bosnia 'Will Win'

AU1112211693 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Report by Zeljko Avramovic on address by Major General Momcilo Perisic, chief of staff of the Yugoslav Army, to a rally in Gornji Milanovac on 11 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Avramovic] [passage omitted] Major General Momcilo Perisic, chief of staff of the Yugoslav Army, then brought back memories of the heroic fighting of the Serbian Army, particularly stressing the brilliant competence of Vojvoda Zivojin Misic [commander of Serbian Army, 1876-1918] and his strategic and operative initiatives, which have been entered into all the school books on military tactics.

The famous military tradition of the Serbian Army, according to General Perisic, has enabled our sons in this war to defend the western borders of Serbianhood, in Ravni Kotari, and on the rivers Kupa, Sava, and Neretva.

[Perisic] Everyone who is thinking about military intervention against the FRY will have to face large losses as no nation that is determined to fight can be defeated. The heroic Serbian people in the republic of Serbian Krajina and the republic of Srpska have been fighting for years now against the Croatian Ustasha, the Muslims, and their helpers throughout the world, and they still remain undefeated. They will win.

[Avramovic] War has never been the choice of the Serbian and the Montenegrin people, General Perisic said. They have always had to defend themselves, not accepting the dictate of the imperial policy. That was the case in the past, that is the case now, and that will be the case in the future. The warlords are accusing us of being dangerous to the peace only because we are defending successfully our country, our homes, and our lives.

The Yugoslav Army is the army of peace but, if there is war, we will be worthy of Misic's fighters from Kolubara and other famous battles, General Perisic concluded. [passage omitted]

Minister: U.S. Influencing Sanctions Committee

LD1312101793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0913 GMT 13 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Kragujevac, Yugoslavia, Dec 12 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Trade Milorad Unkovic said on Sunday [12 December] he was "very much surprised and disappointed" that the U.N. Sanctions Committee had failed earlier this week to take a decision about humanitarian deliveries of fuel to the new Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro), and opined that it was the United States that was influencing the committee.

"Obviously the mood is not right, especially in the United States, for such a decision to be taken," said Unkovic speaking on Radio Kragujevac.

"If they are waiting for (Serbia's December 19 early parliamentary) elections, then the decision will be taken soon, but if they have another purpose, such as destroying the Serbian people, then we must say we are not a nation that is easily blackmailed, let alone destroyed," said Unkovic.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee on Thursday again blocked deliveries of Russian natural gas for heating Yugoslav homes, schools and hospitals.

The U.N. Security Council clamped comprehensive sanctions on Yugoslavia in May of 1992 for its alleged involvement in civil war in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina. Humanitarian goods, food and medicine are supposed to be exempt from the sanctions, but the bureaucratic attitude of the U.N. Sanctions Committee is preventing their delivery to the Yugoslav population.

Commenting on the declared willingness of some neighbouring and other states to help Yugoslavia with humanitarian deliveries, Unkovic said they were countries which, too, had been hard hit by the anti-Yugoslav sanctions.

"We expect them to bring still greater pressure to bear on the international community. We believe they have more power than they have used so far, and we expect Romania, Bulgaria, Russia and other countries to do more towards lifting the unjust sanctions and liberating humanitarian deliveries, specifically fuel and energy," explained the Yugoslav minister.

Serbia

Parties Outline Election Programs

Socialist Party

LD1212163993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1246 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Dec (TANJUG)—The priorities of the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] in the election campaign are the preservation of peace in Serbia and the establishment of peace in the area of the former Yugoslavia, support and help for the Serbian areas in Bosnia and Croatia, defense against external pressures, the fight against crime, and the resolution of the social and basic needs' problems of the citizens.

The SPS stresses that a condition for our stability is that Serbia shows in the forthcoming elections that it is not wavering as regards the maintenance of the policy of protecting its state and national interests.

Advocating that all controversial questions be resolved in a peaceful way, the socialists are stressing that they will persist in the just struggle of the Serbian nation outside Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and on its inalienable right to self-determination.

They are convinced in this party that the Serbian people want to elect their own authorities; they do not want foreign countries to choose their authorities for them, and they point out that the Serbian people do not have a boss in Europe.

Pointing out that the unjust sanctions are the main cause of the difficult economic situation, the SPS sees a way out in increasing production—both agricultural and industrial production. They believe that the burden of the difficult economic situation should be distributed in the most equitable way possible, and that special measures must be taken to protect the living standard of the most vulnerable strata of society.

As a lasting orientation, they give the highest priority to the fight against crime and corruption, assessing that such phenomena are a byproduct of the sanctions. They stress in particular that no state or party post should free anyone from his or her responsibility for acts he or she commits.

The socialists openly stress that in the forthcoming elections they wish to gain a majority because they believe that the formation of a stable parliament and government would complement the policy pursued so far and thus protect state and national interests and contribute to the establishment of peace, and to the democratic and economic development of Serbia.

In its program the SPS advocates freedom in human and political rights, national equality, social justice, and the regulation of the market economy, based on the equality of all forms of ownership.

Serbian Radical Party

LD1012162093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1106 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 10 December (TANJUG)—The Serbian Radical Party [SRS] is contesting the elections on 19 December with the following program:

—restoration of a free, independent and democratic Serbian state which will encompass the entire Serbian universe in all those areas where the Serbian people have been fighting for such a state;

—a radical end to the war against Serbia waged by Albanian separatists in Kosovo and Metohija;

—the single Serbian state ought to have only one parliament, one government, army and police—only such a state will guarantee spiritual and material welfare; anthem;

—establishment and development of true parliamentarian democracy in which the people will decide in a sovereign manner, via its freely elected representatives, on the form of rule, state organization, organization of state authorities and other crucial issues;

—multiparty system and consistent guarantees and respect for all civil freedoms and rights as a basis for democratic people's authorities;

—securing the principle of equality of all citizens under the law by establishing an independent and effective judiciary and limiting state administration;

—an efficient and cheap state [administration];

—depoliticization of the army and police;

—ruthless struggle against organized and street crime and corruption at the highest state levels;

—limiting the government's economic role to monetary, economic and taxation policies;

—market economy based on private ownership;

—an end to uncontrolled money-printing;

—social and health care and free education;

—dignified life for all Serbia's citizens.

Serbian Unity Party

LD1012180493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1135 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Party of Serbian Unity—Election Program"—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Dec (TANJUG)—The Party of Serbian Unity [SSJ] stresses as one of its basic political aims the unity of the Serb nation and the unification of all Serb lands into a common state of the Serb nation and all other nations and minorities wanting to live with the Serbs on an equal basis.

The party advocates the respect for parliamentary traditions and democratic decision-making, with respect for all human and political rights of the citizens of Serbia, regardless of their nationality and religion. The SSJ believes that the best tradition of the Serb nation must be honored, and religious beliefs of Serbia's people respected. In their opinion, the respect for family and the teachings of Saint Sava are the buttresses of Serb spiritual life and the organization of society.

The SSJ advocates national accord and an end to political disputes between parties in Serbia because they believe that such relations are detrimental for the unity of the Serb nation, and weaken the Serb state.

The economic progress of the Serb community, as the SSJ stresses, should be based on a market economy, a free market and private ownership with guarantees for the safety of citizens' property. The SSJ will fight for Serbia's integration into world markets in the areas where there are economic interests, and on condition that Serbia's dignity and national interests are honored.

Democratic Party

LD1012191893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1119 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 10 Dec (TANJUG)—In its election program, the Democratic Party advocates a democratic evolution of society and political compromises, the establishment of a true multiparty parliamentarian democracy, and a law-governed state that will always guarantee freedom for all citizens. The Democratic Party stresses that the creation of a sound state necessarily requires the termination of international isolation through contributions to the peace process, the affirmation of the federal state through respect for the Constitution, and better cooperation between the republics.

In addition to the struggle for the lifting of sanctions, the Democratic Party also advocates the implementation of a crisis program for the period of sanctions and the preparation of basic social and state sectors for the post-sanctions period. The Democratic Party's crisis program envisages that the economy should be protected in the period of crisis from organized fraud and from devastation of its resources and that the industries that secure the survival of the people should be given priority. The most vulnerable classes of people should be provided with social care funds, something that is to be achieved through monetary and taxation policies, as well as through the regular functioning of the state.

The Democratic Party advocates that the practice of minority governments should be brought to an end and that capable and honest transitional governments—federal and republican—should be formed. Transitional governments should secure the survival of the people and the functioning of the state, as well as curb the crime wave and chaos in the economy by following a program accepted by all political parties.

The Democratic Party advocates peace and an immediate cessation of hostilities in all parts of the former Yugoslavia. The Democratic Party also advocates the Serbian people's self-determination and the defense of unity of all parts of the Serbian people following the collapse of the former Yugoslav state. This party will advocate integration of all parts of the Serbian people by using all political and diplomatic means.

Depos Organizes Food Distribution in Nis

AU1012211193 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 10 Dec 93 p 2

["Z.M."-attributed report: "Hungry People Fighting for Food"]

[Text] Nis—Spona [link], non-governmental humanitarian organization, distributed 10 tonnes of food, that is, 3,000 packages with flour, sugar, salt, potato, rice, and coffee, to citizens at the center of Nis, in the Liberation Square, yesterday. A large number of people gathered in the square who hampered the distribution of packages by hysterically running after the truck and climbing onto it, which resulted in several citizens being lightly injured.

"The people are impatient and we were not given loudspeakers to be able to introduce order and prevent possible chaos," Danica Draskovic, chairman of the Committee of the Spona association, said. "The only aim of our action is to feed the people. This is being obtained exclusively with the funds earmarked for the Depos election campaign, which is thereby going to be modest. The next aim is to show the Serbian president, who was telling everybody in the country and abroad that nobody in Serbia is starving, that his people are hungry. This action has nothing to do with the coming elections. If they say that it does have, why are they not distributing food in the neighboring square so we could see who would attract more voters with that trick. The people would certainly be pleased."

Danica Draskovic announced that the next Spona action in Nis will be held on 18 December, on the eve of the St. Nicholas Day, when fish, wheat, and rice will be distributed. Nis people will also be distributed food for the Orthodox and Catholic Christmas.

Milosevic Addresses Rally on Serbian 'Struggle'

AU1112151393 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Report by Zivko Perisic on address by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to rally in Gornji Milanovac on 11 December—recorded]

[Text] [Perisic] Several thousand citizens of Gornji Milanovac waited for the end of the commemoration to greet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. The Serbian president went to the communal assembly building, where he was greeted enthusiastically by the citizens. He addressed them there.

[Milosevic] Citizens of Milanovac, I thank you most cordially for your hospitality [loud applause drowns his words] for your welcome.

We are here today to mark one of the most glorious of victories in the history of our struggle for freedom, and our entire history has been in fact a history of a struggle for freedom. This best shows that freedom is not given as a present, and that no one can take it away from us [loud applause].

Now that we are exposed to unprecedented pressures, means are used against us that could only have been devised by the kind of mind that 50 years ago came up with concentration camps. [shouts of agreement] Nothing more shameful could have been done, nor has

anything more shameful been recorded in recent history. Only their servants in our country—who are taking advantage of the hardships of their own people for their own political ends—are more infamous than them. [loud applause]

Everyone should know that it is not party ambitions or party [word indistinct] that is on the agenda today. Today on the historic agenda is the state, today on the historic agenda is peace and freedom, and the national interests of the Serbian people. [loud applause] Every citizen must be able to make that distinction.

We have provided, one could say, almost all the conditions for the quick and successful end to the peace process. We hope that very soon all of us will be able to turn to our economy, our development, the raising of the standards—and I am sure—this city and this region will contribute greatly to this, since it has shown as much so far in its development in agriculture, industry, and in all of that, citizens of Milanovac, I wish you much success. Cheers! [loud applause]

Socialist Official Predicts Lifting of Sanctions

LD1112072893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0020 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, December 10 (TANJUG)—Vice-President of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) Goran Percevic said on Friday evening [10 December] that his party could not promise the lifting of "the criminal and unjust (U.N.) sanctions" but that it was evident that "the world will soon do this itself."

The U.N. Security Council imposed severe sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in May 1992 because of their alleged involvement in the war of Moslems, Serbs and Croats in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, and even tightened them on two subsequent occasions. Percevic spoke at an SPS election rally in Sombor, a town in Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina, ahead of the early parliamentary elections in Serbia scheduled for December 19.

He underscored that the U.N. sanctions were "the price for the successful resolving of the Serb national issue." Saying that no-one could any longer deny the reality of the Serb republic and the republic of Serb Krajina, formed in parts of the former Yugoslav republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia with Serb populations, Percevic said that his party was "waging a battle for Serb national interests and the unity of the Serb people." Saying that he expected a victory at the elections, Percevic expressed the belief that they would not have to form a coalition government.

Zoran Arandjelovic, an SPS candidate and president of the Republican Assembly, said that the priority tasks of his party remain the consolidation of the statehood and national interests of Yugoslavia, Serbia, and the Serb people in the Serb Republic and the Republic of Serb Krajina who are fighting for their freedom. Speaking at an election rally in Nis, the industrial center of southeastern Serbia which is his constituency, Arandjelovic assessed the sanctions as a criminal act and expressed the hope that they would soon be lifted. Even those who urged the blockade no longer believe in its purpose, he said.

Another SPS official, Dusan Matkovic, who heads the SPS list in the Smederovo district, assessed that the sanctions would soon be lifted 'because they are [word indistinct] also for the Romanians, Bulgarians, Hungarians and Greeks.' The sanctions have arrested economic development and the objective of this dirty economic war is the realization of germanic goals in these lands, Matkovic said.

Opposition Democratic Party spokesman Bora Kuzmanovic assessed at a press conference in Belgrade that the SPS could hardly get more than 30 percent votes, adding that if the Socialists are sufficiently patriotic and wise, a government of national salvation could be formed.

Milosevic Meets Italian Business Representatives

AU1012210393 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] The Italians are also interested in the modernization of railways in Serbia. The representatives of the (Fercomit) Concern from Rome, a well-known European consortium for designing and producing railway equipment, expressed the wish during the first round of talks with their hosts from the Belgrade Railway Transportation Enterprise and the CIP Transportation Institute yesterday to start preparations on joint cooperation on the program for new railways in Serbia.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today received guests from Italy. After that, they were received by Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic. In the talks on the most important aspects of economic cooperation between Serbia and Italy, President Milosevic stressed that the delegation of that famous Italian consortium for railway projects is a clear harbinger of the early lifting of sanctions, reestablishment of business ties, and the normalization of bilateral economic relations, something that is in the interest of both the Serbian and the Italian economies.

The participants in the talks emphasized the significant importance of successful cooperation between our and the Italian economies on the programs that require long-term cooperation in the production of vehicles, furniture, textiles, metal products, and a number of other new branches of industry, science, and technology.

They also discussed a comprehensive development and modernization of railways in Serbia and the projects of the Belgrade Railway Transportation Enterprise and the CIP in the republic of Srpska.

Milomir Minic, director general of the Belgrade Railway Transportation Enterprise, also took part in the talks between Slobodan Milosevic and (Eros Zanibali), director general of (Fercomit), and (Radolfo Salci), coowner of this Italian consortium.

Macedonia

Retail Prices Rise by 12.1 Percent in Nov

AU1012202093 Skopje MIC in English 10 Dec 93

[Unattributed report: "Retail Prices and Living Costs"]

[Text] Retail prices have gone up 12.1 percent in November, the same as in October. The biggest leap is noted with the prices of agricultural products, the prices of drinks, and services.

Compared to the same month last year, the retail prices have increased 247.8 percent. According to the cumulative inflation rate, on the other hand, in the period January-November, the retail prices, compared to the same period last year, have gone up 376.2 percent.

In November, the living costs went up 11.3 percent. The biggest jump is noted with the tobacco prices, drinks, traffic, PTT [post, telephone, telegraphic] service, food products, while the least with heating, lighting, culture, and leisure.

Compared to the same month last year, the living costs have increased 254.1 percent and the cumulative inflation rate in the period January-November, are higher 387 percent compared to the same period last year.

Kosovo

Trial of 19 Albanians Postponed for Second Time

AU1012144393 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Pristina, Yugoslavia, Dec 10 (AFP)—The trial of 19 ethnic Albanians charged with planning "an armed uprising aimed at the secession" of Serbia's mainly ethnic Albanian province Kosovo was postponed for a second time Friday [10 December]. The trial was rescheduled for Wednesday after the defense requested a postponement.

Proceedings began Wednesday but were delayed after the court allowed a request by defense lawyers for a medical committee to examine one of the accused, Salih Salihu. Journalists attending the trial saw Salihu enter the courtroom, supported by two police officers and walking with difficulty. After the postponement, they saw a policeman carry Salihu on his back into a waiting police car. The 19 face charges of having formed a secret organization aimed at "separating" Kosovo from rump Yugoslavia, which comprises Serbia and Montenegro. If convicted, they face up to 15 years in prison.

Last month courts in Kosovo handed down jail sentences of between one and four years each to members of several small groups of ethnic Albanians convicted of "terrorist activities threatening constitutional order" in rump Yugoslavia.

Serbs Reportedly Threaten Nonvoting Albanians

AU1012182393 Tirana ATA in English 1144 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 10 (ATA)—Serbian-Montenegrin leaders of Peje want to force Albanian workers who work in this commune to participate in the elections due on Sunday for the deputies of the Serbian parliament. They threaten that the Albanians who will not take part in the elections will be dismissed. The Albanians of Kosova, who have proclaimed their republic in July 1990, have decided not to take part in the elections of Serbia, considering them as elections of a neighbouring country.

Albanian Reportedly Dies After Police 'Tortures'

AU1012210093 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] The state Serbian terror against the Albanians of Kosova continues with increased intensity. The latest reports from Prishtina inform of new political trials against Albanians, raids and physical maltreatments.

Dilaver Ramadani from Corotice of Presheve died after beastly tortures in Nish Prison. In the Prizren District Court, where Serbian lawyers are installed, during a political trumped-up trial, Uke Bytyci, activist of the Kosova Democratic Alliance from Suhareke, was sentenced to five years of imprisonment.

Another political trumped-up trial against 19 Albanians in Prishtina, expected to start today, was postponed until later.

Demaci Views Human Rights Council Activity

AU1112150293 Tirana ATA in English 0927 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 10 (ATA)—The people who applaud violence against another people, suffer it themselves, the Albanian laureate of the Saharov prize, Adem Demaci, said at the jubilee meeting of the fourth anniversary of the creation of the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms in Prishtina, adding that this happened with the Serbs.

During its four-year performance, Mr. Demaci said, the Commission for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms in Prishtina passed its test. About 90 per cent of the reports of the international institutions provide data gathered from this council.

The secretary of the council, Zenun Celaj, said that the council was the first alternative organisation of the

one-party system and preceded the formation of the other parties and associations, which, after some months, undermined all the construction of the system built on ideology, but not the power which had and still tramples underfoot the human and national rights of the Albanians in former Yugoslavia. Mr. Celaj provided a series of data on the Albanians' discrimination in all fields.

From this jubilee, a letter was sent to the UN secretary general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The letter demands that the human and national rights of the Albanians in Kosova be defended by making invalid all the discriminating laws and acts and by halting violence and terror against the Albanians who have chosen the peaceful way of realizing their aspirations.

LDK Vice Chairman Holds News Conference

AU1212143393 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT Nr.247 in English 10 Dec 93

[Unattributed report: "LDK Press Conference"—issued by the Democratic League of Kosovo]

[Text] At a press conference held today in Prishtina, LDK [Democratic League of Kosovo] vice-chairman Dr. Fehmi Agani evaluated as very important the recent visit of President Rugova of the republic of Kosova to Great Britain and the support and understanding he received from the highest British authorities towards a peaceful solution of the Kosova question. He said that Great Britain showed determination to undertake all necessary measures in order to avoid further escalation of the conflict in Kosova.

Dr. Agani commented on the speech of President of Albania, Dr. Sali Berisha, at Second Convention the Democratic Party of Albania, calling it an important statement. Dr. Agani said: "Alongside with the decisive rejection of any further partition of territories where the Albanians constitute a majority, and the request that the lifting of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro be conditioned with the solution of the Kosova question, President Berisha also confirmed Albania's determination to use all their [words indistinct] Kosova and a possible huge massacre against the Albanians", said Agani adding that it was a clear warning to the Serbian militant circles.

Recalling the 45th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the LDK vice-chairman condemned the Serbian policy of national discrimination against the Albanians in Kosova, persecution, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.

Dr. Fehmi Agani hailed the approval of the latest resolution by the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on the gross human rights abuses in territories of the former Yugoslavia, with special focus on the violation of human rights of the Albanians in Kosova. LDK vice-chairman said that the Serbian state terror has been continuing unabated in Kosova. "A staged trial against 19 Albanians is currently taking place in Prishtina", said Dr. Agani, making mention also of numerous interventions of the Serbian police in Albanian homes, schools, shops, etc. Commenting on the rifts within the (Tetova-based) Party for Democratic Prosperity, Dr. Agani said that he hoped the current situation in the party would be overcome in the interest of the Albanian people in Macedonia, fully respecting the democratic procedure and statutory norms.